



AGE NIGERIA FOUNDATION

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14TH OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

ACCESSIBILITY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HABITAT (TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND ACCESS)

The Constitution of The Republic of Nigeria made provisions for the rights of all citizens which also includes persons.

In the area of transport, housing and accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (Transportation and housing access). The Federal Government of Nigeria consider housing policy as a tool for national development. The need to use housing in the attainment of sustainable development both in the rural and urban areas. Build infrastructure and accessibility.

Nigerian housing policy takes into consideration basic issues like health, finance, provision of infrastructure, building materials, maintenance and repairs.

The policy encourages access to infrastructure services like pipe-borne water, communication, transport services, schools and electrification both in the urban and rural areas.

The basic goal of the Nigerian Transport Policy is to develop a safe, environmentally sound, efficient and affordable transport system for all.

The transport needs of older people are not homogeneous, their needs vary based on lifestyles, age, gender, income, driver's license possession and household size and structure.

The Nigerian Government's integration of Information and ICT into the social economic development of the nation to transform Nigeria into a knowledge-based economic must accommodate older people.

Older people faced multiple barriers to the realization of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure, habitat, public transport, and housing.

Home has a major impact on the physical and mental health of older persons. Housing is not often designed to meet the needs of older people. Public buildings, Pedestrian bridges, and road expansion in the cities increased the isolation and mobility burden of older persons as older people are not put into consideration in their designs.

The introduction of neo-liberal economic policies and over-reliance on private and estate developers create gaps in the provisions of houses that meet the needs of older people. This has led to homelessness and poor quality of life among older people. The housing problem is peculiar to older people as the majority of them live in abject poverty. Older people find it difficult to have access to land due to customs and traditions mostly in rural areas. In some cultures, women are not allowed to own land and inheritance. Older people are not allowed to have access to loans.

Older people are not considered as a policy issue in the area of communication, information and technology. Despite the huge success recorded in the area of fixed telephone lines, and broadband for Internet which have improved business and lives in the country, older people are often not empowered and do not have access to ICT. There is a huge digital divide among older people. Older people do not have access to mobile phones, computers, broadband, radio and television ownership, internet access, or post office access including postal agencies and shops.

Older Persons suffer from transport deficiency. There is poor provision of flexible transport systems for older people and no deliberate transport planning and transport alternatives for older people who are considering decreasing or ceasing driving. There is no provision for sidewalks and lighting in many communities to encourage mobility. These have negative effects on older people concerning health, mobility, safety and independence.

Data are not disaggregated to accommodate older people. The exclusion of older persons from data collection is against their fundamental human rights and has further increased the inequalities faced by older people in Nigeria. Ageism and Age Discrimination is a great concern. Most surveys normally exclude older women and men from their data collection.

There is an urgent need for older people's inclusion in the present government policies. The present government has adopted the policy of inclusion to accommodate all in governance. Older people are mobilized to form Older Persons People's Associations and Self Help Groups to encourage the present government to include programs and projects that will have a direct impact on them. Collaboration of older persons with Civil Society Organisations, NGOs, Community Leaders and Youths has further encouraged awareness of ageism and age discrimination which are the root cause of the lack of support for older persons. Older people in their various communities are encouraged more with awareness and campaigns on ageism and inequalities in society. The introduction of programs that promote unity among generations at the community level enhanced intergenerational relationships among older people and the youth.

There is a need for a standardized system for handling complaints from older persons in the country. The Justice System is cumbersome and out of reach for the majority of older persons. They faced a wide range of barriers to our justice system which include limited physical mobility, cost of living crisis,

procedural delays and intimidation. The Justice System should encourage accessibility and full participation of older persons for their voices to be heard and experiences recognized.

Thank you.