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GENERAL INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ALL INDIA FEDERATION

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Focal point on Ageing

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Social Policy and Development

UN

Subject: Non Government Organization input to the OEWGon Ageing 2013

Reference: UN General Assembly resolution 67/139

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I thank you for giving us an opportunity for submitting our view point with regards to General Assembly resolution 67/139 for OEWG 2013 on issues concerning Older Person.

I take this opportunity to once again bring to your kind notice that Government of India and majority of its State's have failed to implement The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) which was announced by the Government of India in the year 1999. It has been 13years long wait for more then 100 million Senior Citizens(60+) .

Today1/8th of the Worlds Elderly Population lives in India and we are 2ndlargest population of Elders. Drastic change in 3 segment: Young Old (60- 70 yrs), Old Old (71 – 80yrs) Very Old (81+ yrs) ; increase in number of people suffering from some form of Dementia(estimated 3% as per National Dementia Report) and Feminization of ageing has given new dimensions to Indian Ageing.

India is gradually undergoing a demographic change. With decline in fertility and mortality rates accompanied by an improvement in child survival and increased life expectancy, a significant feature of demographic change is the progressive increase in the number of elderly persons. Added with rapid stage of Globalization and urbanization the disintegration of the joint family system and the emergence of nuclear families, has affected the care of the aged the most. **The divide between Rich and poor is growing and thus at the same time Senior Citizens are getting poorer and poorer. The poorest among the poor are Senior Citizens. Today Elderly are the most ignored and neglected segment. Its last on Agenda of the Government, Political Parties and Civil Society.**

Women and men age differently. Both have their concerns. The problems of elderly women are exacerbated by a lifetime of gender based discrimination, often stemming from deep-rooted cultural and social bias. It is compounded by other forms of discrimination based on class, caste, disability, illiteracy, unemployment and marital status. Over 50% of women over age 80 are widows. **Elderly women and their problems need special attention as their numbers are likely to increase in the future and, given the multiple disadvantages they face in life, they are likely to be grossly unprepared to tackle these issues.**

Abuse of the elderly and crimes against senior citizens especially widows and those living alone are increasing day by day. We need to address this by strict law,community awareness and policing.

The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced by the Government of India in the year 1999. It was a step in the right direction in pursuance of the UN General Assembly Resolution 47/5 and in keeping with the assurances to older persons contained in the Constitution. The well-being of senior citizens is mandated in the Constitution of India under Article 41. "The state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to public assistance in cases of old age". The Right to Equality is guaranteed by the Constitution as a fundamental right. Social security is the concurrent responsibility of the central and state governments. BUT ALL THIS which is not Practiced and pursued.

UN Proclamation on Ageing 1992 , The Madrid Plan of Action (MIPAA) , United Nations Principles for Senior Citizens 2002, the Shanghai Plan of Action 2002 , Macau Outcome document 2007 adopted by UNESCAP - The Government of India is a signatory to all these documents demonstrating its commitment to address the concerns of the elderly. BUT 'It's just Signatory' on Paper, there is no commendable Action.

National Policy (NPOP) 1999 not yet implemented after 13 years and it was Reviewed in 2010. Draft of New policy (NPSC) was submitted in March 2011 to the minister but till date not yet declared. There is No Dedicated Elder Protection Act , the 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007' (which addresses majorly maintenance) is not yet implemented pan India . The lack of Political will is the big hurdle for any policy making and implementation.

I wonder why at the respectable age of 60+ our Elders have to struggle for their Basic Human Right of Independence , Participation , Care , Self-fulfillment , Dignity of the older persons.

We all need to fight for Freedom from Ageism and discrimination based on age or any other status, in all aspects of life including employment and access to housing, health care and social services.

After much deliberation among our members and Senior Citizens around the Country, we would like OEWG and UN to address following issues of Older Person :

- 1) Special provision for 80+ age group
- 2) Uniform Age for classification of older person at National level, State wise, Department wise
- 3) Equal Right & Protection for 60+ and 80+ Women
- 4) Address the issue of Transgender Older Person
- 5) Accessable and Affordable Medical care for all
- 6) Right for Recreation for all
- 7) Right for Universal Pension linked to inflation
- 8) Decentralization of Implementation of Policies and Programmes ; give powers to District , Municipality and Village committee
- 9) Elder Friendly Public utilities including transport, religious places , hospitals , parks , recreation and entertainment , educational institute etc
- 10) To make Charter of Elder Right, similar to Child Right
- 11) Human Right Commission of member state to have separate committee for Older Person
- 12) Right to Technology, which includes training and access and affordability
- 13) To emphasis on The Life Cycle Approach

- 14) Promotion of Inter-generational Solidarity
- 15) National Policy should have Budgetary provision ; short term , mid term and long term goal and achievable targets for implementation
- 16) Special policy and programmes for Protection , Welfare and Mainstreaming Rural Elderly, Tribal Elderly, Destitute Elderly,
- 17) To appoint Special Rapporteur for Older Person at UN and Every member state level
- 18) Special plan for Preventive measure for all around Well being of Older Person
- 19) Special mention and declaration of comprehensive policy on Dementia and Alzheimer's
- 20) Every member state should be asked to Appoint its National Council and National Commission of Older Person
- 21) A Time Frame work and Action Plan for Implementation of MIPAA , many country like India are not showing enough willingness in doing so
- 22) International legal instrument to promote and protect the rights of older person , which is binding on member state

We would also like you to go through our short video's 'Real Voices of Older Persons of India' through this links :

- 1) Senior Citizens raise their voice against government apathy : <http://youtu.be/oLVhgOzcWyQ>
- 2) Senior Citizen Blasts Government of Maharashtra for their Apathy towards Elderly : <http://youtu.be/qZ7PTdFK3k0>

We are confident that at 4th OEWG 2013 , an 'International Convention for Elder Right' will be framed and declared consequently for a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons and make our World 'Society for All Ages'.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

K S Samant

General Secretary

Note:As required sent by Email to dspd-ageing@un.org