

Inputs from the Senior Citizens Council under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development **Mauritius 4**

SCC Inputs

UN Call for Submissions for the ninth session of the Open- ended Working Group on Ageing

DIS-MOI is an NGO, affiliated with MACOSS, campaigning on human rights including the senior citizens. Many NGOs around the world such as Help Age International have been promoting the cause of the elderly and urging the UN to come with a Convention on Human Rights of the elderly on the same basis as the Rights for the Disabled.

The Ministry of Social Security, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, has implemented a number of policy measures contained in the National Policy on Ageing (2008-2013) for promoting the rights and the social integration of elderly persons, ensuring their protection, encouraging their participation in society and recognizing their skills and experience. The objective of the Protection of Elderly Persons (amendment) Act, introduced on 13 July 2016, is to enhance the level of protection of security of the elderly as they have the right to be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Other Departments/Units such as the Welfare Unit, Elderly Watch and the Senior Citizens Council are all concerned for the welfare of the elderly who have the right to be free from discrimination.

However, I wish to point out that certain issues raised in the letter involve policy measure which can be best handled at the Ministry's level. Although Council is generally in favour of the Convention on the Rights of the Elderly, there may be certain fundamental implications which have to be considered at National level.