**THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE ISSUES EXAMINED AT THE IX SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING:**

**Country – Sri Lanka**

**Organization – HelpAge Sri Lanka**

**Focus Area: Autonomy and Independence**

**National legal framework**

Sri Lanka has accepted UN principle on aging, one of the principles is independence in this UN 5 Principle on Ageing. But Sri Lanka doesn’t have a special legal provision under the elder’s rights protection act or constitution to provide independence and autonomy to the older people. The general provision of the constitution and other laws there is some provision to protect independence.

Autonomy and independence of older people must be included to the elder’s rights protection act and proper legal provisions to be added to protect the right to autonomy and independence.

A national policy document on aging prepared by 2017 has recognized the UN 5 principles and autonomy and independence have included to this policy document. But this document still not approved by the parliament and 1st of October 2018 this document published at the national elders day commemoration event by the Minister of Social Welfare and Primary Industries.

Main challenges in implementing this policy document are getting political interest and pass through the parliament.

Under the act no 09 2000 Elders rights protection has given some equality, non-discrimination, and priorities for elders. But there is no special provision to ensure the autonomy and independence.

Currently, Sri Lanka has introduced Senior Citizen committee network around the country. 11,905 village level Senior Citizen Committees (SCC) have formed. These village-level SCCs get-together and formed divisional level, District Level, Provincial level and National level Senior Citizen networks. These networks have utilized to get a proposal to formulate a national policy on aging during 2017. But the political interest and proper interest in autonomy and independence to be improved.

Under the general laws and judicial system, any people can claim some extent to their rights to autonomy and independence. But there should be proper legal provision for older people to claim their rights to autonomy and independence.

**Focus Area: Long-term and Palliative Care**

To provide long-term care and palliative care Sri Lanka doesn’t have a constitutional, legal or executive foundation. But currently, National Secretariat for Elders have started some steps in the preparation of a strategic plan to improve the long-term care in Sri Lanka with the support of ADB and HelpAge International. World Bank also has started the process of starting long-term care improvement in Sri Lanka.

Ministry of health has introduced national elderly health policy of Sri Lanka. That’s covers some long-term care aspect. But palliative care is not properly covered by the laws.

Long term care and palliative care to be defined under the elder’s acts and relevant policy documents properly. All elders should have the right to long-term care and palliative care.

HelpAge Sri Lanka is supporting senior citizen committees to train Home Care Volunteers and enhance community care under the long term care. Also, HelpAge is working to train elder carerers to improve long term care needs. National Secretariat of Elders and the Ministry of Social Services also has started to process of improving long term care in the country. Elders home and day center is now providing long term care support. Only 2 – 3 private hospices have been providing the palliative care services in the country.

Senior Citizens Committees’ participation can be taken to provide community care and improve long term care services.

There should new act for the new provision to ensure and protect the rights to long term care and palliative care.