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

**EDUCATION, TRAINING, LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

**National legal framework**

1. **In your country/Region, how is the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age guaranteed in legal and policy frameworks?**
* The Cameroonian Constitution of 18 January 1996;
* Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 on the organization of the Government;
* Decree No. 2005/254 of 07 July 2005 laying down the implementing rules for Law No. 2004/016 of 22 July 2004 on the establishment, organization and functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms.

**Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability**

1. **What are the key issues and challenges faced by older persons in your country/Region with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity building services?**

The economic situation of the elderly is not conductive to access to quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity building because most of them no longer have the necessary income to afford vocational training or even cultural. To respond to this situation, the establishment of a business directory specific to this category of people would be an asset for Cameroon to better reframe these experiences whose usefulness would no longer be demonstrated today.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that education, training, life-long learning and capacity building services are available and accessible to all older persons, adapted to their needs, suited to their preferences and motivations, and of high quality?**
* The Ministry of Social Affairs has set up a project called "Maison des Ages" which is a space for education, information, intergenerational exchanges and leisure activities for the elderly;
* The decree n° 2005/254 of July 07, 2005 fixing the modes of application of the law n ° 2004/016 of July 22nd, 2004 relating to the creation, organization and functioning of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms, in its Article 5 (1), is responsible of development of a culture of respect for human rights and freedoms through awareness raising, education, information, and the organization of related seminars, in collaboration with relevant national and international bodies;
* The Partnership Agreement of May 25, 2005 between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the *Institution Africaine d’Informatique* (IAI) for the training of people with disabilities and other target populations including the elderly, the mastery of information technology and the communication.
1. **In your country/Region, are there studies and/or data available on the access of loder persons to the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age?**

We can note some studies carried out within the framework of the access to persons to the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building, in particular:

*Situation socio-économique des personnes âgées au Cameroun: Etat des lieux et facteurs explicatifs”*, Esther Crytelle EYINGA DIMI, Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population, Cameroon (www.ceped.org);

"*SITUATION SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUE DES PERSONNES AGÉES* ", Ministry of Social Affairs, Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population and the United Nations Fund for Populations, 2010 (www.minas.cm).

**Equality and non-discrimination**

1. **In your country, is age one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination in relation to education in older age?**

In Cameroon, there is no discrimination in access to education for the elderly. Indeed, they are still enrolled in schools (evening classes to present the official exams) and universities (to acquire higher degrees) of the country to continue their different courses. Only official competitions are not reserved for them because they can no longer support a certain workload due to their physiology.

**Accountability**

1. **What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to, lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building?**
* The Courts of First and High Instance;
* The Ministry of Basic Education;
* Ministry of Higher Education;
* Ministry of Social Affairs;
* The National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS AREA OF THE IX SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SECURITY (SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS)**

**National legal framework**

1. ***What are the legal provision in your country that recognizes the right to social security and social protection, including non-contributory old-age benefits? Do they have a constitutional, legislative or executive foundation?***
* Decree No. 2005/320 of 8 December 2005 on the organization of the Ministry of Social Affairs,
* Decree No. 2012/558 of 26 November 2012 on the organization of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security,
* Decree No. 2018/354 of 7 June 2018 on the reorganization and operation of the National Social Security Fund (CNPS),
* Ordinance No. 73-17 of 22 May 1973 on the organization of social welfare,
* Law No. 69 / LF / 18 of 10 November 1969 establishing a pension, old-age, invalidity and death insurance scheme as amended by Laws 84-007 of 4 July 1984 establishing an old-age pension insurance scheme and No. 90-063 of 19 December 1990.

These legal provisions have constitutional, legislative and executive bases because they are on the one hand enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of January 18, 1996 which states that the Nation protects young people, women, the elderly and people with disabilities. And on the other hand, they were deliberated and adopted by the National Assembly and promulgated by the President of the Republic of Cameroon.

**Availability**

1. ***What steps have been taken to guarantee universal coverage, ensuring that every older person has access to social security and social protection schemes including non-contributory, contributory and survivor old-age pensions, to ensure an adequate, standard of living older age?***

The major step is the implementation of Universal Health Coverage by the Cameroonian Government through its Ministry of Public Health. According to the World Health Organization, this strategy consists in ensuring the equitable access of all individuals, according to their needs, to comprehensive health services such as preventive, curative, palliative, rehabilitation, promotion and quality, without risking impoverishment.

1. ***What steps have been taken to ensure that every older person has access to social protection schemes which guarantee them access to adequate and affordable health and cadre and support services for independent living in older age?***

Law No. 69 / LF / 18 of 10 November 1969 establishing a pension, old-age, invalidity and death insurance scheme as amended by Laws 84-007 of 4 July 1984 establishing an old-age pension insurance scheme and No. 90-063 of 19 December 1990, which provides in Article 3 that the faculty of self-insurance is granted to persons who are not referred to in Article 2. In this case, the contribution is entirely dependent on them. A decree lays down the conditions and methods of taking care of voluntary insured persons.

**Adequacy**

1. ***What steps have been taken to ensure the levels of social security and social protection payments are adequate for older persons to have access to health care and social assistance***
* Reductions in the cost of medical examinations in some health centres for the elderly (*Centre Pasteur du Cameroun*, *Centre Hospitalier de la CNPS,* some public hospitals).
* The diligent processing of retired seniors pension records which has improved greatly in terms of speed in the service.

**Accessibility**

1. ***What steps have been taken to ensure older persons have adequate and accessible information on available social security and social protection schemes and how to claim their entitlements?***
* Elderly people's access to social security is facilitated by the multiplication of social security proximity services for elderly people's pensions.
* the setting up of social services in the districts and other basic units such as hospitals, police stations, courts, schools and prisons offering several benefits to the elderly.
1. ***The design and implementation of normative and political framework related to social security and social protection benefits included an effective and meaningful participation of older persons?***

Older people have been involved in the development of the National Policy for the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons. This involvement resulted in descents in the ten (10) regions made by the Ministry of Social Affairs to the elderly to collect their needs and expectations. Since its creation in 2004, the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms has been raising awareness among the population, public and private organizations on respect for human rights, including the rights of the elderly.

**Equality and non-discrimination**

1. ***Which are the measures adopted to ensure equitable access by older persons to social protection, paying special attention to groups in vulnerable situation?***

The creation by Decree n° 2005/320 of 8 December 2005 of the Ministry of Social Affairs with a Sub-Directorate for the Protection of the Elderly is a strong action that demonstrates the importance given to this social category. This sub-unit's mission is to study in depth the problems of the elderly with a view to ensuring equitable access to social protection.

**Acountability**

1. ***What mechanisms are in place to ensure social security and social protection schemes are effective and accountable?***

As mechanisms put in place to provide social security and social protection we can mention:

* Social services and local social security centers,
* Geriatric services in public hospitals,
* Opening of training courses for qualified personnel in the fields of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Andragogy.
1. ***What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress for denial of their right to social security and social protection?***

To collect the concerns of the elderly about their rights to social security and social protection, we have:

* the Ministry of Social Affairs (its local social services operational in the districts and other basic units (hospitals, police stations, courts, schools, prisons),
* the Ministry of Public Health,
* the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms,
* the National Social Welfare Fund (CNPS),
* the Courts of First and Higher Instance.