



**BIENESTAR**  
SECRETARÍA DE BIENESTAR



**INAPAM**  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS  
PERSONAS ADULTAS MAYORES

## **Report that defines the normative content of the issues examined at the twelfth session of the General Assembly Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing for strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons**

### **Contribution of older persons to sustainable development**

#### **Definition**

We can define the contribution of older persons to sustainable development as the set of factors looking to satisfy their basic needs and their integral development, in order to reduce inequalities, to eliminate any form of discrimination, and to end poverty, with the objective of providing well-being to the ageing process, where the society, the family and the State take part.

Participation of older persons in society is not only seen as a principle, but as a right in the Rights of Older Persons Act (LDPAM, by its acronym in Spanish), which establishes that this group of the population has the right to participate in the planning of social development through decision-making.

#### **Scope of the rights**

The Mexican Constitution, as Supreme Law, prohibits discrimination of any kind, on grounds like age, genre, social condition, religion, opinions, sexual preferences, and more, and the LDPAM protects the right of this age group to live a life free of violence and age discrimination, in observance of their physical, emotional and sexual integrity.

Likewise, one of the main pillars of the LDPAM is the promotion of participation, which refers to the insertion of older persons in all aspects of public life, including by expressing their opinions and intervening in areas of their interest. This fulfills the objective of contributing to sustainable development, in conjunction with the State and institutions of the Federal Public Administration, by elaborating public policies that eradicate ageism and age discrimination.

The rights of access to information (including information and communication technologies (ICT)), freedom of expression, and freedom of association and peaceful assembly are protected by the Constitution, and the State has the obligation to guarantee them.

Also, older persons have the right to associate and to form organizations that promote their development and influence actions related to this sector, as well as to participate in productive processes, education, training, cultural and recreational aspects of their communities. As an example, the National Institute for Older Persons (INAPAM, by its Spanish acronym) offers the opportunity to engage in different Clubs and Cultural Centers, where older persons do physical, recreative and cultural activities, and are able to



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participate on self-managing groups making decisions in favor of their community and the collective benefit.

Older persons can also contribute to sustainable development through the Social Comptrollership Committees of the Institute, through which they can supervise the use of resources as well as the operation of social programs dedicated for them.

In addition, INAPAM promotes their participation through the Citizen Committee, which takes part in the decision making and planning of the different programs and activities of the Institute. Older persons, with due regard to gender equity, integrate this Committee completely.

In case of any abuse of these rights, older persons may submit a complaint to the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH, by its acronym in Spanish).

### **State obligations**

Older persons in the country tend to have difficulties assuring their right to contribute to sustainable development, especially due to generalized ageism stereotypes in society that lead to discrimination, and therefore, segregation. Oftentimes, there is a correlation between public policies, family and community environments.

INAPAM aims to promote a positive view of older persons, not only within the public sector but also in the private and social spheres. The main activities and procedures to accomplish this is by establishing agreements between these areas in order to benefit older persons and also by performing permanent campaigns that communicate the important contributions of this group to society.

Additionally, the State has the task of enforcing the LDPAM so that families and society have full respect and recognition of older persons, including their dignity.

### **Implementation**

Regarding the representation of older persons in sustainable development, one of the main objectives of the Institute is to promote a positive view of this age group by publishing materials, establishing agreements with other institutions considering the best interest of this group (education, goods and services, cultural activities and transportation), as well as making their needs and contributions to society visible.

Finally, as stated above, the Social Comptrollership Committees and the Citizen Committee are the mechanisms provided by the Institute to promote their participation by involving them in the processes and actions that affect them, strengthening the insight and perspectives towards the problems and situations around the older population.