

## Guiding questions for defining the normative content of the issues examined at the twelfth session

### Focus Area 1: Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

#### Definition

1. How are the key human rights relating to older persons' participation and, therefore, their contribution to sustainable development defined in the national legislation in your country? If definitions are not available, how should such rights be defined considering relevant existing national, regional, and international legal frameworks?

#### Kenya

This has not been clearly defined, despite Kenya being party to various global and regional instruments.

#### Lebanon

This has not been clearly defined. However, its constitution notes that Lebanon abides to the covenants by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

#### Syria

This has not been clearly defined by the Constitution of Syria. However, article 22 of the Constitution notes that the state shall guarantee every citizen in cases of old age.

#### Palestine

The Palestinian Basic Law amended in 2005 recognizes a set of rights for Palestinian citizens including the right to social and health security services, and disability and old-age pensions.

#### Scope of the rights

2. Please provide references to existing national legal standards relating to older persons' contribution to sustainable development on normative elements such as;
  - a) right to equality and prohibition of all forms of discrimination against older persons on the basis of age, alone or combined with other grounds, in the context of sustainable development;

#### Kenya

The Constitution of Kenya recognizes Older Persons as distinct rights holders

#### Palestine

N/A

#### Lebanon

N/A

#### Syria

N/A

- b) elimination of all forms of ageism and age discrimination from sustainable development laws, frameworks, programs, policies, and practices;

**Kenya**

The Constitution of Kenya, Article 57 notes that the State shall take measures to ensure the rights of older persons to fully participate in the affairs of society.

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

**Syria**

N/A

- c) right to freedom of expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information;

**Kenya**

Kenya obligates the state to take measures to ensure Older Persons' rights to participate fully in the affairs of society.

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

**Syria**

N/A

- d) right of peaceful assembly;

**Kenya**

Article 57 notes that older persons shall fully participate in affairs of society.

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

**Syria**

N/A

e) right to freedom of association;

**Kenya**

Article 57 notes that older persons shall fully participate in the affairs of society

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

**Syria**

N/A

f) right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

**Kenya**

Article 57 notes that older persons shall fully participate in affairs of society and pursue their personal development. Similarly, the National Policy on Older Persons notes the inclusion of older persons in poverty reduction policies, programmes, strategies and in national budgeting processes.

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

**Syria**

N/A

g) right to development, including older persons as active participants and beneficiaries of development;

**Kenya**

The National Policy on Older Persons notes that it should be recognized that older persons are in informal employment and are also employment, and that their skills and expertise could be tapped and utilised for development.

**Palestine**

N/A

**Lebanon**

N/A

## **Syria**

N/A

- h) active, free and meaningful participation of older persons and their representative organizations in all matters related to sustainable development, including in political processes;

## **Kenya**

The National Policy emphasizes the inclusion of older persons in poverty reduction policies, programmes, strategies and in national budgeting processes.

## **Palestine**

N/A

## **Lebanon**

N/A

## **Syria**

N/A

- i) access to prompt remedies and redress when older persons' above-mentioned rights are violated.

## **Kenya**

Article 43 (3) obligates the state to provide appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves in order to guarantee their socio-economic rights.

## **Palestine**

N/A

## **Lebanon**

N/A

## **Syria**

N/A

## **State obligations**

3. What measures and special considerations should be undertaken by the State to respect, protect and fulfil the above-mentioned rights to ensure older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

### **Kenya**

- Further awareness by the public on the various stipulations on older persons under the law and policy.

- Utilizing intersectional approached to formulate solutions that acknowledge equity of intervention towards equality of outcome.

### **Lebanon**

The Government should commit to fully support and protect marginalized groups including older persons under its social protection strategy, including through pensions and adequate housing, funded by revenue.

### **Syria**

- Active polices and legislation framework

### **Palestine**

N/A

## **Implementation**

4. What are the good practices and main challenges faced by your country in the adoption and implementation of the above-mentioned normative framework to ensure older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

### **Kenya**

In Kenya, the Older Persons Cash Transfer Program (OPCT) regular and predictable cash transfer to poor and marginalised older persons (65 years and above) in identified deserving households. Observed challenges include limited infrastructure/implementing tools and irregular funding.

### **Palestine**

N/A

### **Lebanon**

N/A

### **Syria**

N/A