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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

Economic Security

Definition

The Mexican legal framework does not have a specific definition for economic security of older persons; however, it can be defined as their ability to have and to use economic resources to ensure the good quality of their lives and to achieve a dignified ageing with well-being. This, combined with the right to work, allows them to enjoy an income of their own in order to satisfy their material, social and cultural basic needs.

Scope of their rights

Article 4 of the Mexican Constitution states that every person has the right to health, and defines a healthcare system that guarantees progressive, qualitative and quantitative extension of health services for the free and integral care of people who do not have social security.

In this regard, the institutions that have more beneficiaries are the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS, by its acronym in Spanish) and the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers (ISSSTE, by its acronym in Spanish). In addition, the Institute of Health for the Welfare (INSABI, by its acronym in Spanish) provides free and quality medical attention in an effort to eradicate discrimination against those who do not have social security, putting them on equal terms.

It also regulates the right to nutritious, sufficient and quality food, such as the safe drinking water and the right to enjoy a dignified housing.

Moreover, Article 123 of the Constitution defines the right to a dignifying and socially useful work, and states that the minimum wage should be enough to satisfy the necessities of a household. Article 5 of the Rights of Older Persons Act proscribes that older persons have the right to have a job, enjoy a quality life, live in dignified safe environments according to their needs, and have access to health services, food, goods and services.

The National Institute for Older Persons (INAPAM, by its acronym in Spanish) contributes to strengthen the right to work through its program of productive linkage service, which promotes paid and formal employment, as well as the system of voluntary packers that provides a source of income for older persons.

In order to promote the freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly and the freedom of association, INAPAM offers the opportunity to join its Clubs and Cultural Centers nationwide, in which older persons engage in socio-cultural, artistic and sport activities,



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including courses, workshops and more. In addition, older persons are able to participate on self-managing groups that allow them to make decisions in favor of their community and the collective benefit.

They may also participate in the Social Comptrollership Committees at the Institute, through which they can supervise the use of resources as well as the operation of social programs devoted for them. Additionally, INAPAM promotes their participation through the Citizen Committee, by which they take part of decision making and planning of the different programs and activities of the Institute.

These two mechanisms allow older persons to participate in the processes and actions that affect them, which are strengthened with their insight and perspectives towards the problems and situations that surround older persons.

Finally, the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH, by its acronym in Spanish), as the entity in charge of protecting human rights, is in charge of receiving complaints about the denial of their rights and seeking redress.

State obligations

Article 5 of the Rights of Older Persons Act states that this age group has the right to enjoy a quality life, to live in dignifying and safe environments, to have access to health and health services, food, goods and services, to work, to have access to public information, to have decent housing and being subjects of programs of social assistance.

In order to respect, protect and fulfill older persons' economic security, the State and public and private institutions must take measures to elaborate public policies, actions and programs that, within the scope of their attributions, help to ensure the access to the labor market, allowing them to generate a salary to cover their needs, and to have access to social security with the purpose of achieving a better quality of life and an aging process with well-being.

Implementation

In order to ensure older persons' economic security, the Ministry of Welfare promotes the "Pension for the Welfare of Older Persons", a federal program which provides older persons of 65 years of age or more with a non-contributory pension, consisting of an economic support of \$4,812 Mexican pesos delivered every two months, in order to contribute to an active and healthy ageing.