



National Commission for Human Rights

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THE SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF RWANDA TO THIRTEENTH SESSION OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

Focus areas: Social Inclusion

The Scope:

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons have already been covered by the Working Group:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Neglect, violence and abuse
- Autonomy and independence
- Long-term care and palliative care
- Social protection and social security
- Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building
- Access to justice
- Right to work and access to the labour market
- Economic security
- Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons may be covered by the Working Group in a forthcoming session:

- Participation in the public life and in decision-making processes
- Accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)

The guiding questions:

- What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country that explicitly focus on older persons who are marginalized on the grounds of their sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status? (*This may include addressing older populations on frameworks*)

dedicated to other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities,

¹ UN DESA (2016) Report of the World Social Situation 2016

migrants, minorities, homeless people etc.; or addressing marginalized groups within frameworks devoted to older persons)

- Under the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda, the State has the duty, to undertake special actions aimed at the welfare of the indigent, the older and other vulnerable groups;
 - National Policy for Family Promotion with aim at promoting programmes of social security;
 - Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) that provides some additional support to extremely poor older people who live in household with no labor capacity;
 - Establishment of a long-term savings scheme (Ejo Heza) with aim to promote the culture of saving among the citizen/residents in Rwanda, the universal access to pension and social security inclusion, the financial inclusion, economic growth, poverty alleviation to attain higher standards of living;
 - Older persons are prioritized in shelter programme
- What legal age limits exist in your country that prevent the full and equal participation of older persons in societies in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, financial goods and services, or others?

The retirement age is Sixty-five (65) years and above but in informal sector , there is no age limit, olders persons can continue their activities according to their energy.
 - What measures are in place, if any, to ensure that older persons in institutions segregated from their communities -such as institutional care systems or prisons- can continue participating in their society?

➤ The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda provides a tangible demonstration of Rwanda's commitment to equal opportunities, prosperity and wellbeing for all; a) Provide and highlight the importance of balanced

intergenerational relationships based on mutual respect ;b) promote the full participation of older Persons in Rwanda's national development¹;

➤ The Law N° 59/2008 of 10/09/2008 on prevention and punishment of gender-based violence punishes violence against an elderly person

- States have an obligation to use maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. What is the share of national public expenditure budget targeted to older persons as a distinct group?

Pursuant to National Older Person Policy, the government of Rwanda will spend approximately Rwf 60 billion over the next four years on services aimed at improving the dignity and self-worth of elderly persons within the Rwandan society.

¹ Articles 10, 46 and 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015