

## **Guiding questions for the twelfth session of the General Assembly open-ended working group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons**

### **Focus area 1: Contribution of older persons to sustainable development**

#### **The Scope:**

Older persons have the right to contribute to sustainable development. The right to participate in, and contribute to, development is affirmed in the Declaration on the Right to Development. Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the right to participate in public affairs. Effective and meaningful participation enables the advancement of all human rights. On the other hand, when older persons are denied the ability or opportunity to contribute, or when their contribution is unrecognized or devalued, their dignity is denied. Understanding the contribution of older persons to sustainable development as a right enables States to identify steps that can be taken to uphold their dignity.

#### **Substantive guiding questions:**

##### **National Legal and Policy Framework**

1. What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks in your country that recognize older persons' right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development? This could include, but is not limited to:
  - a) ensuring that relevant human rights (in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right of access to information, and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association) are protected and implemented;
  - b) protecting and enhancing civic space and collaboration with civil society that represents the voices of older persons in sustainable development;
  - c) good practices to ensure older persons' participation in, and contribution to sustainable development.
2. What are the challenges faced by older persons for the realization of their right to contribute to sustainable development at national and international levels?
3. What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

##### **Equality and non-discrimination**

4. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviors that devalue older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

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### **Remedies and Redress**

5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development?

### **Focus area 2: Economic security**

#### **National legal and policy framework**

1. What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantees the minimum essential level of the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to an adequate standard of living?
2. How is poverty defined in the national policy framework?
3. What are challenges faced by older persons living in poverty, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender and other grounds?
4. What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons living in poverty?

#### **Progressive realization and the use of maximum available resources**

5. What steps have been taken to address economic insecurity and poverty in older age and to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons?
6. What is the impact of macroeconomic policies on economic insecurity and poverty among older persons and vice versa? What policy options are available and/or implemented in order to expand fiscal space and maximize available resources to ensure economic security and the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons?
7. What good practices are available in terms of ensuring older persons' economic security, including through a life-course approach?

#### **Equality and non-discrimination**

8. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age that prevent older persons to access economic and other productive resources, including financial services, land, adequate housing and the right to inheritance?

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**Remedies and redress**

9. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their economic security and enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living?