

Submission by:

UNIVERSAL PEACE AND VIOLENCE AMELIORATION CENTRE
Organization in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social
Council (UN ECOSOC) *since 2019*



SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT:

“ECONOMIC SECURITY”

**THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

**TWELFTH WORKING SESSION
NEW YORK, 11 - 14 APRIL 2022**

Prepared by:
ITIGBRI OGAGAOGHENE JESSE,
Chief Executive Officer/President

Contact Information:

Mobile: +2348064776827; +2348105032828
Email: universalpvac@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook@universalpvac
Website: www.upvac.org
Twitter: @UPVAC1

Preamble

As Economic security requires having stable income or other resources to support a standard of living, this has a very great gap in Nigeria, especially for the older persons.

There is huge level of economic insecurity in a very large percentage of Older Persons in Nigeria, especially as a result of socio-demographic factors such as employment status and education, also lack of social support from family and community and also inadequate government support.

National Legal and Policy Framework

Very few national legal and policy frameworks have been put in place in Nigeria to ensure economic security of older persons, but are yet to be enforced and practiced nationwide.

Although, particularly there are no national policy framework defining poverty in Nigeria, but according to the international policy framework which defines poverty as an unacceptable deprivation in human well-being that can comprise both physiological and social deprivation.

Till date, there are still certain challenges which older persons still face in Nigeria, such as stigmatization, inability to meet medical and related health care bills, inability to live in a standard accommodation and meet up certain utility bills.

Older persons are also faced with the challenge of inequality based on age and gender (older women) in accessing certain facilities, such as credit facilities because of their lack of economic and social empowerment.

Currently, there are no established evidence-based statistics of the number of older persons living in poverty in Nigeria of recent, but according to the World Bank statistics of 2018, using LSS/SSAPOV/GMD, the international poverty line of older persons living in poverty was at 74%o. Although, the National Senior Citizens Centre of Nigeria is working on collating such data.

Progressive Realization and the use of maximum available Resources

Few steps have been taken in Nigeria to address economic insecurity and poverty in older age and to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons such as establishment of senior citizens centres and enactment of ACTS to protect older persons against economic insecurity by ensuring the right to work and access to the labour market by older persons, while guaranteeing access to justice by them.

Equality and Non-discrimination

In Nigeria policies and laws have been put in place to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age. These policies and laws cover reasonable aspects relating to health, housing, insurance, social safety nets, social welfare and transportation.

Also, with recent government legislation on the abolishment of age discrimination, the elimination of ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that devalue older persons' right to economic security has been curtailed through such policies and passed into law as an ACT.

Remedies and Redress

Mechanisms currently in place for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development includes the following:

- i. Establishing a Bill for an act to provide certain rights and privileges for Older Persons in order to ensure health and economic reliefs and Protection for their social and civil rights and for other Related matters, 2019.
- ii. National Senior Citizens Centre ACT, 2017: An Act to establish the National Senior Citizens Centre in the country to cater for the needs of senior citizens; and for related matters.

Other necessary Mechanisms that might need to be put 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 includes the following:

- i. Ensuring that social protection and social security systems are established and effectively managed.
- ii. Ensuring that a comprehensive database of older persons living in poverty is created and regularly updated.
- iii. Ensuring that jobs are created specifically with older persons in consideration.
- iv. Ensuring the active representation and participation of older persons in all functional National Action Planning.
- v. Monitoring and Evaluation to track the effective management and accountability of existing frameworks and mechanisms.
- vi. Ensuring an open and transparent feedback mechanism at all levels for older persons to lodge their complaints or recommendations.