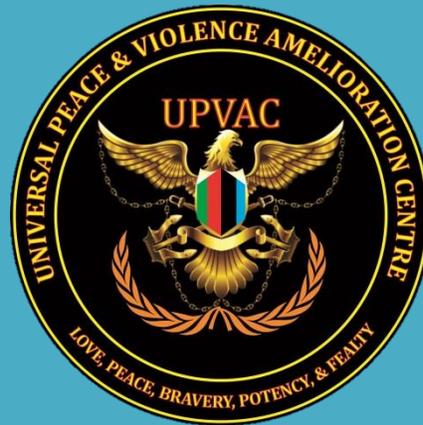


Submission by:

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:

“CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

**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**

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Preamble

The Sustainable Development Goals and global with a clear vision of “leaving no one behind”, which includes and is not limited to the older persons.

Scope of the Right

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.

National Legal and Policy Framework

Certain national legal and policy frameworks have been put in place by Nigeria in the following areas, by ensuring that:

- i. the Federal Ministry of Information makes provisions for promotion of orientation and awareness regarding the rights and respect for the inherent dignity of Older Persons, and the capabilities, achievements and contributions of Older Persons;
- ii. older Persons are included in every National Action Programme on Income Generation of the State or Federal Government.
- iii. enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and long-term care without discrimination on the basis of age, including public health, preventive medicine, palliative care and rehabilitation are accessible by older persons.
- iv. public buildings are constructed and provided with the necessary accessibility and mobility aids such as lifts for multi-level buildings, ramps, wheel chairs, automated or manual transportation carriers and any other facility that shall make such facilities conveniently accessible and usable by Older Persons.
- v. Older Persons shall have right to safe and smooth movement on streets, walkways, gatherings and physical structures free of unreasonable physical contact from other persons and shall enjoy safe and convenient usage of side-walks, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges etc. including those with wheel chairs and the visually impaired.

All these are contained in various established Acts in Nigeria, such as the Older Persons (Rights and Privileges) Bill, 2019.

Equality and Non-discrimination

In Nigeria particularly, age has been a barrier to meaningful contribution to sustainable development by older persons. But with the recent government legislation on the abolishment of age discrimination, the elimination of ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that devalue older persons' contribution to sustainable development 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 right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development includes the following:

- i. Ensuring the active representation and participation of older persons in all functional committees of sustainable development.
- ii. Monitoring and Evaluation to track the effective management and accountability of existing frameworks and mechanisms.
- iii. Ensuring an open and transparent feedback mechanism at all levels for older persons to lodge their complaints or recommendations.