

Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

12th Session Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Submission February 2022

Answers of the German Institute for Human Rights to the guiding questions for the focus areas of the 12th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing:

Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

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;

Germany is part of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as other international human rights treaties, for example the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW).

Regarding the right of access to information, the access to digital information can be limited for older persons due to lack of internet access or internet-enabled devices in facilities for older persons or due to lack of digital competence. Senior citizens organisations are demanding alternatives to information exclusive accessible in digital formats.

In March 2021, the government adopted the further development of the German Sustainable Strategy.¹ The strategy is based on the SDG.²

b) protecting and enhancing civic space and collaboration with civil society that represents the voices of older persons in sustainable development;

¹ <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/nachhaltigkeitsstrategie-2021-1873560>.

² <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/sustainability/germany-s-national-sustainable-development-strategy-354566>.

National conferences have been taken place to inform civil society.³ Among the participating organisations were also older persons organisations. However, there are no other specific measures which try to include older persons especially in discussion on the SDG.

The Focal Point in the respective ministry did not mention specific arrangements.

c) good practices to ensure older persons' participation in, and contribution to sustainable development.

No information available.

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?

The involvement is very limited to the social Sustainable Development Goals. Older persons are not a focus.

3. What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

No information available.

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?

There has been a campaign⁴ on stereotypes which tried to raise awareness to the diversity of older persons. However, there was no specific link to the SDGs.

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?

No information available.

³ For example in Bonn in 2020: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/nachhaltigkeitspolitik/nachhaltigkeitskonferenz-bonn-1723278>.

⁴ See the initiative "New Images of Age" [Neue Bilder vom Alter]: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/aeltere-menschen/aktiv-im-alter/neue-bilder-vom-alter/initiative-neue-bilder-vom-alter--77164>; and the program "Age Images" [Altersbilder]: <https://www.programm-altersbilder.de/>.