

Workshop
Evidence-based ageing-related policies in sub-Saharan Africa
16-18 November
Lake Naivasha, Kenya

Opening remarks:

The Secretary Social development & Head, National Social Protection Secretariat, (Kenya), Ms. Cecilia Mbaka delivered her opening remarks on behalf of **Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretariat of the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes- ageing in (Kenya)**. She expressed gratitude on behalf of the government of Kenya for hosting the workshop and the collaboration provided by UNDESA. She echoed this bilateral partnership enabled the advancement of ageing issues in Africa. The representative stressed that the workshop was timely given that population ageing continues to be a challenge as the number of older people continues to rise globally. As a result of this demographic shift, Kenya initiated various programmes to help cushion older persons from poverty, including providing nutrition, health and care services and social protection.

Ms. Mbaka acknowledged the role of UNDESA in providing capacity support in the establishment of Kenya's national family and protection policy (2017); capacity development of the National Ageing policy in line with SDGs (2019); action plans on family planning and protection (2019); and in 2020. As a result of these initiatives, the government of Kenya received a 2020 award on the exemplary work on family protection. The government of Kenya looks forward to further strengthening collaboration efforts in this regard. She added that Kenya remains committed to improving the wellbeing, dignity and quality of life of older persons through the inclusion of all Kenyans regardless of age and commit to leaving no one behind, as espoused in the 2030 Agenda.

The African Union (AU) representative, Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang, stressed the importance of partnerships and collaboration amongst relevant stakeholders in the region, especially in tackling common development agendas covering ageing, disability etc. He mentioned that a unified approach is important especially towards the 2063 agenda in pursuit of "the Africa we want". **Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang** underscored the importance of the workshop, stressing both the roles of the United Nations and African Union Commission in this regard-He further emphasized that the workshop is a platform that promoted learning and exchange of relevant information among African stakeholders and beyond. **Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang** provided a brief background of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons highlighting that the document was a steppingstone to ensure the dignity and wellbeing of older persons. The legal instrument was adopted by all heads of states in the

region in 2016. However only 3 countries ratified it (Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Benin and the Republic of Malawi - out of the 15 countries. He further emphasized the urgent need for more countries to ratify and ensure that the treaty comes into force. In total, 18 member states have signed it (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea- Conakry, Kingdom of Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leon, Togo, and Zambia). If the treaty comes into force, it will ensure older people have rights, live in dignity and are able to access their rights he concluded.

Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang also reiterated that forging strong partnerships and enforcing coordination were key to advancing the issues of older persons and achieving “the Africa we want” as expressed in the 2063 Agenda. He further mentioned that prospects brought by the adoption, ratification and implementation of the protocol includes enabling older persons to have access to universal social protection, employment and skills development. Furthermore, older persons need protection against harmful cultural practices among others. He also mentioned that AU is facilitating the drafting of a protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security and this will be presented for adoption at the Summit of Heads of State and Governments in 2022.

Opening remarks on behalf of UN-DESA were presented by **Mr. Robert Venne** who stressed the importance of coordination amongst stakeholders and emphasized the role of capacity building related to issues of ageing. He further mentioned that emerging issues such as Covid-19 resulted in added challenges pertaining to convening stakeholders during the pandemic but stressed the importance of having these kinds of gatherings to help deliberate and strengthen policies related to protecting the rights older persons (including addressing challenges such as provision of social protection, health care services, social services etc.). **Mr. Robert Venne** remarked on the ensuing demographic shift in Africa is characterized by decreased fertility resulting in a steady increase in population ageing. He underscored the need to strengthen policies in terms of formulating, implementing and monitoring policies related to ageing policies, implementation of MIPAA and the 2030 Agenda. He also expressed the need for countries to address data/statistics and channel efforts to help mainstream age in demographic trends as we implement important frameworks such as the AU plan of action/protocol on ageing, 4th Review and appraisal of MIPAA etc. He acknowledged the AU plan of action and the role of the institution in the ongoing 4th review and appraisal of MIPAA-stressing how support from relevant stakeholders and policy makers contributes to the successful implementation of international frameworks and commitments. In this regard he concluded his remarks by recognizing the role of academia, statistics, CSOs and governments in contributing to the advocacy efforts towards the adoption of legally binding instruments.

Representative of the CSOs -President of NSINDAGIZA (Rwanda), Mr. Elie Mugabowishema took to the podium and expressed the role of civil society organisations, emphasizing the importance of building networks at local and global levels to help effectively implement MIPAA, Implementation of Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, AU protocol etc. to help promote the rights of older persons in Africa. He also mentioned the need for strengthening capacity, coordination and leadership in this regard. He mentioned that the

documentation of best practices shared amongst countries is important, but it is still lacking. **Mr. Elie Mugabowishema** underscored the importance of adopting a convention for the rights of older persons and the need for an accelerated ratification of the AU protocol amongst Member States. He also emphasized that CSOs around the world are looking forward to working with relevant partners to improve the global situation on ageing including institutionalization of UNIDOP (United Nations International Day for Older Persons) at national level-in this regard, promoting multi sectoral collaboration and documentation of good practices amongst countries is key.

Presentations

Day 1: (16 November 2021)

1. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development-UNDESA/DISD, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Ms. Shatho Nfila

Ms. Shatho Nfila gave an overview of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its interlinkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlighting how MIPAA, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 enables countries to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of population ageing. MIPAA's effective implementation accelerates the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, specifically the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and targets.

Key Messages:

- Preparing for an ageing population is integral to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind that by 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals, the number of older persons is projected to globally outnumber youth. So, if we are to meet those targets, we must raise the visibility and pay closer attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons during the implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda.
- Older persons are key actors of development and play crucial roles in their families, communities, economies, environments and political systems. Therefore, it is important to ensure that development gains reach older persons, their knowledge, experience and expertise can be harnessed to deliver on the goals.
- Reaping the benefits of longevity for sustainable development demands the adoption of evidence-based policies, with a life-course approach, that incorporate the extension of longevity and re-examine existing structures.
- Implementation or effective implementation of MIPAA will accelerate the achievement of SDGs, and these two frameworks are aligned and interconnected
- In the period 2016–2021, 248 voluntary national reviews were presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, over two thirds of which included references to ageing. While positive improvements have been reported in the VNRs

(Voluntary National Reviews) in areas such as awareness-building about the SDGs, other issues remain excluded from larger conversations (providing disaggregated data statistics, building resilience (with an emphasis on accommodating environmental changes etc.)

- The principle of leaving no one behind is mentioned by several countries in their VNRs, but it often lacks a tailored focus on older persons in vulnerable situations. Like other age groups, many older persons contribute to advancing the SDGs, however, their social and economic contribution are often overlooked in these reports.
- Ageing-related policies and priorities are still absent in many national plans and sustainable development strategies.
- Most Member States address older persons, as a vulnerable group, in the context of leaving no one behind. VNRs often portray ageing issues as a challenge, including by focusing on concerns over the sustainability of social services, pensions and healthcare systems, and as a factor that limits long-term economic and income growth.
- As the longevity agenda gains traction, there is a need for a paradigm shift that leverages ageing as an opportunity and recognizes older persons as active agents who already make substantial contributions to development efforts.

The presenter concluded by noting that the issue of population ageing should no longer be an afterthought. There is a great opportunity to respond to and call attention to the changed global profile of ageing and to recognize the remarkable contribution of older persons. There is also a need to get a second opinion and revisit concepts that define and measure population ageing to: address ageist assumptions (burden on welfare systems and economies); take into account entirety of the human life course; and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities. She also mentioned that the approach should be a “No one size fits all” because some older persons are those left furthest behind, others are active contributors to development. Some older persons are receivers of care and assistance and others have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents have migrated or are deceased-the definition is not homogeneous. There is a need for all hands to be on deck as we still face serious data gaps, and data that does exist is insufficient in both quantity and quality. We need stronger ageing related policies and priorities committed in national plans and sustainable development strategies are needed. She concluded the presentation by reiterating that fact that the 2 frameworks alone are insufficient. An international standard on the rights of older persons has potential to advance implementation, monitoring and accountability and ensure that no one is left behind including older persons.

2. Social Protection for Older Persons in Kenya by Secretary Social Development & Head, National Social Protection Secretariat (Kenya)-Ms. Cecilia Mbaka

Ms. Cecilia Mbaka shared Kenya’s approach to social protection for older persons. She mentioned that social protection cushioned older persons against various risks & vulnerabilities associated with old age including (food insecurity, poor health, abuse, neglect and abandonment, poverty and exclusion, dependency by younger population). She mentioned that the country is planning to use digitalization technologies to help improve linkages of various

programmes and avoid overlap and maximize resources to reach more people. The role of policies, especially in promoting life course approaches to enhance universality was a priority. Various programmes were initially funded by development partners but are now supported by the government. In particular, the country's investment plan 2030 requires financial resources and support. Kenya introduced social protection programmes as a way to promote the inclusion & empowerment of older persons to help improve their livelihoods & dignity, facilitate their protection against abuse and strengthen institutions mandated with the care & support of older persons. Kenya's social protection institutional framework is categorized under the following:

- Universal pension (2017) and the 70 Years & Cash Transfer Program -over 800,000 OPs are covered and are lobbying for lowering the age- the aim is to expand the cash transfer – to lower ages – 68 – 66 until 60
- The NSSF
- Retirement contribution
- Habababa – minimal contribution to support your retirement
- Post retirement scheme for civil servants (negotiation NSSF to continue with the same package)
- Provision of health cover 55,000 OP (older persons) receiving health cover – more people who are benefiting from cash transfer and referral systems to NSSF
- Proposed Schemes
- Post-retirement health scheme
- Expanding the older persons' CT to 60 yrs
- Provision of health cover (subsidy) to the OPs

Key Messages:

- There are many challenges in implementing the social protection programmes including: High dependency ratios, low formal labour force, costly social security provisions and an increased need for social assistance.
- There is need for appropriate SP interventions during active ages to reduce older persons vulnerabilities e.g. inclusive social security regimes, effective health insurance cover for older persons (UHC (Universal Health Coverage)), tapping on the demographic dividends and the need for coherent policies and legislations for older persons
- Many young people depend on older persons – high dependency issues for older persons – joblessness, costly social security system, (80and 90 years) burden to government
- There increased demand for social assistance amongst older persons.

3. Demographic ageing, the situation of older persons and recent policy development in Kenya- Assistant Director, Social Development (Lead for Ageing in Kenya) Ms. Charity Kiilu

Ms. Charity Kiilu shared Kenya's demographic structure and the situation of older persons. Like the rest of the world, Kenya has experienced a pronounced growth in its older population. Currently, the proportion of older persons (OPs) is estimated at 6% of the country's total population. According to the 2019 National Census Report the population of OPs in Kenya was

2,740,515 against a population of 47,564,296. The majority of Kenya's older persons are female (55%) and live in the rural areas.

To address the plight of older persons' Kenya has put in place legislative, policy, programmes and institutional measures that are in line with the provisions of the International, Regional and National Instruments such as the *Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)*, *the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, *AU Framework on Ageing*, *Protocol on Older Persons*, *Vision 2030 & the Constitution of the country*. Amongst challenges experienced by older persons are poverty and vulnerability, elder abuse, pandemics such as COVID-19, discrimination/ageism, low literacy levels, digital inequity or lack access to technologies, victims of cybercrimes etc. Older persons often face limited right to work and poor access to the labour market etc.

The National Policy on older Persons and Ageing was revised in 2018 and it underscores the government's commitment to address the rights and protection of this segment of population. Other policies include: The National Volunteerism Policy, the National Social Protection Policy, Draft Family Promotion and Protection Policy, the Draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the National Standards and Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Institutions of Older Persons

Furthermore, the Ministry through the State Department of Social Protection, Senior Citizen affairs & Special Programmes implemented the following programmes;

- Family Promotion & Strengthening
- Cash Transfer Programme for Older Persons (OPCT)
- Health Insurance for Beneficiaries of the OPCT Programme
- Institutional Care & Support for Older Persons
- Data on Institutions and Service Providers for OPs
- Advocacy against Elder Abuse
- The Ministry has been facilitating the Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

Kenya also established a Unit for Older Persons & Ageing (Senior Citizens Affairs Unit) whose mandate is promotion and coordination of government action on the issues affecting OPs and ageing in the country. It adopted a multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of policy interventions and in advancing the rights and aspirations of OPs; through collaboration with relevant MDCAs, CSOs and other Development Partners.

Key Messages:

- The demographic shift towards increased OPs in society has been accompanied by rapid urbanization, shifting attitudes within communities and population movements.
- In particular, the increased movement of younger persons from rural to urban areas in search of employment has led to major changes in family structures, resulting in the

breakdown of the extended family support systems to older persons in society with its in-built traditional social protection systems.

- On the other hand, rural urban migration has also created a segment of older persons in urban areas who face peculiar challenges
- Rich policy architecture is not matched by commensurate implementation, a few programmes are in full operation such as the CTs, Covid -19 and institutional care;
- Policy responses to ageing are characterized by limited generation or systematic use of evidence to inform policy formulation, decision making, on resource allocation, the implementation of policy provisions and finally M & E of such action.
- There is urgent need for utilization of the existing evidence, mechanism for stakeholder engagement for information sharing and coordination on ageing responses;
- Broad data gaps that need to be addressed through primary survey research.

4. Care Services for Older persons in Lesotho-Manager-Elderly Care Officer, Department of Elderly Care Services- (Lesotho) Ms. Mamtshengu Tshabalala

Ms. Mamtshengu Tshabalala gave an overview of the institutional setup of services for older persons in Lesotho. The Ministry of Social Development in the country was established in 2012 and mandated with the care, support and protection for vulnerable groups of people including older persons. In particular, the Department of Elderly Care Services was set up in 2014, and is responsible for care, support and protection for older persons in the country. Lesotho's policy for older persons - aligned with United Nations Principles for Older Persons (resolution 46/91) was developed and approved in 2014 as the main guide for the operation of the department. The presenter indicated that there were other related policies/programmes including:

- The Advocacy and Awareness raising program which is responsible for public education and sensitisation on ageing and ageing issues. The programme also aims to empower for older
- The Dementia Care Program which supports families and care givers of older persons with dementia, while the Community-based Care Program helps provide care in the community to promote ageing in place. The programme enhances the use of support services in the communities e.g. families, support groups and volunteers as informal caregivers.
- The Institutional Care Program-which provides alternative care, establishes placement of older persons into places of safety (Old Age Homes) when necessary. It also supports, provides training and supervision for caregivers in old age homes.
- The Healthy Ageing Program- promotes recreational and physical activities to promote active ageing and healthy lifestyles, e.g. elderly social clubs and other associations.

- The Retirement Program-preparation and empowerment for retiring officers; their rights and roles in retirement process, preparation and planning for life after retirement, Social Protection Program-Universal Old Age Pension for older persons at the age of 70 years and above.
- Public assistance in cash and in kind for 60-69 years old to address elder poverty, Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICOPE) to enhance and ensure coordinated and person-centred care for Older Persons to promote intrinsic capacity and maintain functional ability. Merging of health and social care for older persons from the point of entry.

Key Messages:

- The government of Lesotho signed and ratified the AU Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in 2018 as the commitment for care, support and protection of Older Persons at the regional level.
- The domestication and implementation of the protocol are facilitated by the development of legislation on the protection of Older Persons which is currently being drafted.
- Care, support and protection of Older Persons in Lesotho is guided and aligned with Lesotho policy for Older Persons, AU Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons and AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing.

The presenter concluded by mentioning that despite having the institutional programmes and frameworks for OPs, Lesotho still faces major challenges for older persons, including poor housing and shelter conditions, primary caregiving to orphaned and vulnerable children etc. This also exacerbates elder poverty because many households depend on the Old Age pension benefit which is not enough. Ageism and elder abuse including property grabbing, neglect, physical, emotional, economic, social exclusion, and brutal killings on the basis of witchcraft accusations are amongst challenges faced. There are limited resources to adequately support the growing population of older persons and address their diverse needs.

Lesotho has addressed these challenges through the following initiatives:

- Situational Analysis study on Older Persons in Lesotho to inform responsive and appropriate programming,
- Intensified public education on ageing and ageing issues,
- Enhanced community-based care; support for care givers of all levels, families, paid and volunteers,
- Sensitize young people including children on ageing and issues related to close the generation gap especially because older persons are becoming primary care givers to orphaned and vulnerable children. Targeting schools both primary and secondary.

- Raise awareness amongst younger generation to help them appreciate ageing as a natural and inevitable process for every human being. This will in turn promote care, support and protection for older persons in all settings including in the household units.

5. Supporting OPs in their homes and communities in Rwanda. President of NSINDAGIZA (Rwanda), Mr. Elie Mugabowishema

The CSO (Civil Society Organization) representative, **Mr. Elie Mugabowishema** provided a scope of Rwanda's population, including the number of older persons. He mentioned that in 404.02 thousand people in Rwanda were aged 65 years and above in 2020, an increment from 110.25 thousand in 1971. Furthermore, the country is expected to see an increase of 300% in its over 60's in the coming decade. The presenter mentioned that the government sees issues of older persons to be the responsibility of community and family. Elderly care work takes place in a variety of settings but mostly in families (most of them in poor conditions)

Like other countries, there is increased number of older persons in Rwanda but older persons face a myriad of issues including inability to meet basic needs – less than 7 % receive pension while a majority receive little support. He mentioned that the country experienced a shift in the demographic structure as a result of the genocide of 1994 which affected most people. He also mentioned that there is institutional care run by faith based organisations including the “Residential homes” – 12 homes run by the Roman catholic church that caters to the most vulnerable including older persons (2 of those are run in collaboration with government and CSOs. He mentioned that there is a community system – IDOP (International Day of Older Persons)- but this is characterised by weak coordination mechanisms. Amongst other issues, older persons suffer from loneliness, isolation, chronic diseases and poverty. Some are hardly able to meet or satisfy their basic needs (food, water, healthcare, etc).

Key Messages:

- The government of Rwanda signed and approved the protocol (to the African charter on Human and people's rights) on the rights of older persons in Africa.
- The government included older persons in the social protection policy, in the NCDs policy and in the community health workers' guidelines.
- The country institutionalized the commemoration of the IDOP countrywide, involving a weeklong campaign on ageing, around the 1st of October, with the participation of the community.
- Approved a stand-alone National Older Persons' Policy with 4 pillars detailing each one's role in the support of older persons.
- Prioritized older persons in the COVID-19 vaccination (1st: 70+, 60+, 50+, 40+ and now 18+, and CHWs (Community Health Workers) were mobilized to identify older persons who might be left out and guide health professionals to meet them at home for vaccination.
- Supported the UN convention through written submissions to the UN OEWG (Open Ended Working Group).

- Involved the First Lady in the campaign, promoting the welfare of older persons, during the IDOP.
- The presenter mentioned that the role of CSOs in advocacy cannot be overstated- most achievements to date has been as a result of CSOs organizations, especially in the Rwanda elderly forum, the Senate and human rights commission. To date CSOs have promoted

-The role of the elderly support groups in the community

-Stakeholder workshops-involving the GoR (Government of Rwanda), NHRIs (National Human Rights Institutions), CSOs and OPs.

-Campaign for youth promoting ageing and dignified intergenerational approaches

-Establishment of 4 centres for genocide survivor widows (2 by CSOs and 2 by the GoR, with the support of the First Lady, 12 residential homes owned by the churches.

6. Policies affecting older persons in Zambia, Principal Planner/Principal Policy Officer in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (Zambia), Ms. Mildred Miti

Ms. Mildred Miti began by giving an overview of the population of Zambia which is estimated at 18,383,955 by the United Nations (2020). Zambia is witnessing an increase in the number of older persons-but the exact number of older persons in the country remains unknown due to a lack of disaggregation of data by age. The Zambian Statistics Agency projected the population of older persons to 670,239 from 521,860 in 2010. To date, the 2020 census is underway, and the actual figure of older persons is yet to be determined.

The formulation of the National Ageing policy is earmarked for review. The policy is complemented by other policies that address issues of ageing such as the national social protection policy. Zambia is also in the process of ratifying the African Charter On Human And People's Rights On The Rights Of Older Persons.

Key Messages:

- There is need for reform of social security systems including the overall improvement of the health sector
- Ratifying other protocols that embody issues of older persons e.g. the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women), UNCRPD and the Maputo protocol African Charter On Human and People's Rights On The Rights Of Older Person
- Reform of social security systems in the country and other programmes tailored towards older persons
- The need to explore opportunities to harness the demographic shift
- Reviewing of existing national policies such as the SP (which must be reviewed every 5 years)
- Reforming social security systems because of destitution mostly affecting those in the informal environment
- Other protocols – CEDAW – older women for being abuse, UNCRP

- Covid-19 – harassment at work
- Review of programmes such as the social cash transfer and strengthen social mechanisms/ empowerment structures for older persons
- Raise awareness and promote issues pertaining to older persons
- Provision of health insurance

The presenter mentioned that besides making strides in the right direction, Zambia still faces many challenges including the breakdown of safety nets (family), significant level of poverty, gender inequalities, income security and lack of coordination with amongst those responsible for SP.

Day 2 (17 November 2021)

7. Health and Wellbeing of Older Persons in Botswana, Program Desk Officer for Healthy and Active Ageing (Botswana) Ms. Ogopoleng Batisi

Ms. Ogopoleng Batisi gave an overview of the specific needs of older adults in Botswana, identified gaps in services as analyzed by World Health Organization (WHO). As a result, a global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016 - 2020) was developed. The presenter noted that the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness embraced this development because the Ministry aspires to have Botswana achieve 'A Healthy Nation by 2023'. Furthermore, a joint situational analysis was conducted with support from WHO in 2019 to establish the ageing and health needs of Botswana older adults. Additionally, a local study revealed that there was a high prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), hypertension, diabetes and parkinsonism disease respectively amongst older persons. Other issues identified were:

- Poor access to services
- Frequent loss of memory among the older adults also identified
- Significant impairment and disabilities among this population which is a consequence of high prevalence of chronic diseases, co-morbidity and natural ageing process
- High level of poverty: 91% living below poverty line
- Disintegration of family support systems
- Loneliness
- Abuse
- Older adults are victims of allegations of witchcraft (dementia)
- Unhealthy eating habits
- High tobacco & alcohol use

Key Messages:

- There is availability of universal old age pension that was introduced in 1996 though it barely meets the basic needs of older adults
- Health care system, while integrative in nature does not have data disaggregated enough for the health status of older adults to be monitored
- Lack of policy guidelines on the care of OPs

- No specific law protecting the rights of the older adults
- Lack of law protecting OPs including addressing their diverse needs
- Need of multisectoral approaches since the needs and issues are multisectoral
- Implementation of ICOPE (Integrated Care for Older Persons)

While there are evident challenges, the country is making efforts related to the promotion of the rights of older persons including establishment of ICOPE guidelines, developing SP programmes, incorporating local languages in education curriculum to promote literacy amongst OPs, development of partnership including development of community structures, audits, annual budgeting and strengthening accountability and coordination mechanisms

8. Human Rights and Older Persons in Liberia, Acting Director, Department of Legislative Assistance, Treaty Matters and Law, Independent National Human Rights Commission (Liberia), Ms. Bowoulo Taylor Kelley

Ms. Bowoulo Taylor Kelley began her presentation by giving a general scope on the rights of older persons in Liberia. She highlighted that older people consist of 5% of the population in Liberia but they also have the highest level of poverty. This is predominantly occurring within the rural areas. Liberia lacks a universal statutory social security for its older population. The country has an existing statutory contributory pension scheme for the working population, of which majority of the older persons have never worked in the formal sector. (Under the NASSCORP ACT).

Liberia has yet to sign and ratify the AU protocol on the rights of older persons, and establish monitoring mechanisms by the judiciary, to ensure that the application of customary laws and practices are in conformity with human rights standards. The country also needs to ensure that the rights of older persons be given priority by international development partners as it is with other vulnerable groups in the country (women, children, minority groups etc). Meanwhile older persons in Liberia face high rates of homelessness, violence and abuse and they do not have legislation protection.

Key Messages:

- There is a serious lack of a national shelter system for homeless older persons in Liberia.
- Limited intervention by International nongovernmental organizations on issues of older persons
- In some rural communities' older women are still accused of being witches and are neglected or abused as a consequence thereof.
- The lack of a formal reporting mechanism for abuse and neglect of older people and persons with disabilities. (SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) pathway in existence)
- The lack of a standalone policy or legislation for the protection of this vulnerable group.
- Article 11 (b) of the Liberian Constitution provides protection of the fundamental rights and freedom of everyone. Although it fails to mention age as a basis of discrimination. (sex, religion, political affiliation are all listed)
- The National gender and health policies place older persons in the category of vulnerable groups requiring protection

- The lack of political will by duty bearers. (The reluctance to legislate the Act for the Commission on the elderly)
- The lack of a national framework (law, policies) to ably address issues of social protection and violations of the rights of this vulnerable group.
- Limited information on matters relating to the rights of older persons.
- Lack of a robust monitoring mechanism of the customary legal system to ensure its compliance with the law and human rights standards. (Trial by ordeal and witchcraft accusation)
- The lack of a national legal aid program for older persons as a vulnerable group.

9. UN Decade of Healthy Ageing and the role of civil societies, Country Director, HelpAge International (Ethiopia), Mr. Tewodros Belachew (virtual)

Mr. Tewodros Belachew gave a synopsis of the UN Healthy Ageing Decade quoting that the decade is about “everyone, everywhere and is about being able to enjoy the wellbeing, dignity, and right to health, to live independently, and to participate at all ages”. He emphasized that maintaining functional ability enables the wellbeing of older persons. He added that healthy ageing is influenced by our physical and mental abilities, the environments in which we live, and how these interact. However, he stressed that fostering healthy ageing and reducing inequity require effective governance and leadership to help develop appropriate laws, policies, national frameworks and commit financial resources. The presenter mentioned that capacity building can support different stakeholders and help develop the relevant competences and help benefit OPs. Amongst these, are the need to align health system to the needs of older persons, support supply chains, e.g. NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases), vaccines, essential medicines and health workforce development and institutional capacity. There is need for development of guidelines and tools for primary care providers and strengthening referral linkages.

Key Messages:

- All stakeholders must engage to promote the four action areas of the UN decade of healthy ageing. We need concerted, catalytic, sustained collaboration to make this happen
- Older people themselves must be at the center of all development and humanitarian initiatives.
- There is a need to shift from an economic growth model towards a rights-based model.
- We need to Influence donors to fund OP initiatives.
- There is a need to stand up against ageism and violence, e.g. by forming coalitions and task force
- Using various advocacy tools, e.g., narrative behaviour change campaigns, mass mobilization, community education, policy research and advocacy
- The need to leverage resources, knowledge sharing towards policy influence.
- Create intergenerational education and conversation platforms.
- Data must be disaggregated to better understand issues affecting OP health and wellbeing (sex and age-disaggregated data).

- Promote the UN Decade of healthy ageing amongst civil society
- Environmental factors-provide housing, technology, behavioural factors and align healthy ageing with SDGs.
- Leadership and capacity building
- Strengthening research, data and innovation
- Healthy system strengthening
- Progress in Africa-further develop Ageing Framework for Africa and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)

10. Surveys, Data and UN Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics, Statistician, Ghana Statistical Services (Ghana), Mr. Jeremiah Sixtus Dery

Mr. Jeremiah Sixtus Dery stated that population ageing is happening globally and emphasized the importance of data disaggregation based on age. So far, censuses, sample surveys, longitudinal surveys, case studies, and administrative questionnaires were used to gather data on OPs in Africa. To date, what is available includes few dedicated data on old persons including the Multiple Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) in Malawi, Africa Aging:2020 and derived data on older persons including -population censuses, DHS (Demographic and Health Surveys), living standards surveys, MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys) and SAGE. Therefore, the UN Titchfield city group on ageing and age disaggregated statistics is an international collaboration to help improve the measurement on older persons- the city group covers work strands covering:

- Conceptual and analytical framework
- Analysis of available evidence
- Standardization and harmonization
- Alignment to SDG goals and other work
- Horizon scanning
- Platform for sharing data and information
- emphasizing that timely and reliable data across all ages is required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Key messages:

- We need to ensure that data have adequate coverage-including; completeness, timeliness, frequency (ensuring the data are of high quality), granularity, accuracy, comparability (ensuring the data are easy to use), accessibility, understandability and interoperability.
- There is need to explore further the data sources on older people
- Come up with new ideas for generating data on older people
- Establish methodological or digital opportunities for filling gaps
- Opportunities to lead remaining work strands of the Titchfield group

11. Demographic Trends and their implications for health systems and impact of COVID 19 on OPs, Director, The Samson Institute for Ageing Research (SIFAR), South Africa, Dr. Gabrielle Kelly

Dr. Gabrielle Kelly gave an overview of population ageing in Sub-Saharan Africa and the implications for health systems. She emphasized the demographic trends in Sub-Saharan Africa as witnessed by population ageing in the region. She mentioned that to absorb this population, there is a dire need for health systems preparedness and address implications for health systems, acknowledge and address the impact of COVID-19 on older people in SSA (Sub Saharan Africa) and as a result come up with priority actions for strengthening health services for older people. While older people will only represent 8% of the population in 2050 the region (vs. 35% predicted in Europe), it will have the world's third-largest population of older people.

Key Messages:

- Despite having populations of 4-5% older people, Nigeria, Ethiopia, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), Tanzania and Kenya have large absolute numbers of older people.
- Nigeria has 9.3 million older people (25th in world and will be 16th by 2050 with over 25 million people) While proportion of older population is small relative to elsewhere, ageing is happening far more rapidly than happened in other regions – less time to prepare
- Older people comprise a significantly higher proportion of the disease burden in terms of DALYs. NCDs have increased as a proportion of DALYs in this group over the past 20 years. Older people more likely to have multiple conditions like HIV/AIDS
- Health systems preparedness and implications
- Access to Universal Healthcare
- Majority of health budgets spent on high-end care rather than primary care
- Impact of COVID-19 on older people in SSA - Widespread health service interruptions and older persons' fear of infection in health facilities have implications for management of chronic conditions
- COVID-19 highlighted need for early planning and communication for alternative management of co-morbidities in older persons in any future pandemic
- Physical distancing requirements and lockdown of LTC facilities had negative impact on mental health and wellbeing of older people
- Under-investment in NCD prevention and management - Health services for NCD prevention and management are limited, poorly integrated and funding levels for NCDs by both government and international donors are weak
- The “Best Buys” and other recommendations from the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2013-2020) have been low
- Poor access to health care, particularly for people with mobility and sensory impairments and people in rural areas
- Health facilities are not age friendly (accessibility, queues, referral systems, lack of integration)

- Quality and responsive care limited by the lack of health worker training in caring for older persons, low awareness of age-related conditions, dealing with multi-morbidity and communicating effectively with older people
- Lack of long-term care policies and structures
- Economic impact of COVID-19 resulting in disinvestment in older persons' care has had big impact on long-term care and older persons' organizations
- Lower levels of education and competence with digital technology leaves older people behind in terms of access to information about COVID-19 and related services limits access to services and social activities that went 'online', increasing isolation

The presenter also highlighted that societal ageism and abuse of older people has increased in the region and perceptions of older people as vulnerable and dependent have been reinforced by the pandemic. Programmes with better social protection coverage were better able to reach older people. She further mentioned that having disaggregated data on the older population is critical to including them in social and economic relief efforts. There is a need to target older people with food aid/social protection/communication campaigns specifically as they are not necessarily included in general responses. Information campaigns specifically designed to reach older people and present information in an accessible way are critical as older people may be excluded from more general campaigns, particularly digital media campaigns. There is need for social interventions to support older people suffering from loneliness, depression etc. especially in LTC facilities but poor reach of health services at community level makes it hard for older people to reach services. To help meet these challenges there is need for: Strengthening preparation of health system for health risks emergencies, including planning for older people developing policies, systems and structures that promote the inclusion of older people, including older people in outreach and communication campaigns ,strengthening older people's access to essential health services, ensuring older person's access to critical care during pandemics, developing contextually and culturally appropriate long-term care systems and services, promoting and support research on ageing and data collection across the lifespan with age and gender disaggregation of data, addressing issues related to ageism, abuse, discrimination that undermine older person's participation in society and their exclusion in emergency responses and improving social protection for and economic inclusion of older people in the region.

**12. The role of the Family regarding livelihoods of Older Persons, Executive Research &Projects Assistant-Center for Research on Organizations, Work and Family, (Kenya)
Mr. Raymond Mutura**

Mr. Raymond Mutura provided a background of the constitution of Kenya Chapter 4, Article 45 which recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order, He argued that the family should therefore enjoy the recognition and protection from the State. The role of the family should be regarded in the livelihoods of OP in tandem with the Kenyan National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection (NPFPP) whose mandate is to enhance the caring, nurturing and supporting capabilities of families so that their members are able to contribute effectively to the overall

development of the country, develop the capacities of families to establish social interactions that contribute towards promoting a sense of community, cohesion and national solidarity, empower families and their members by enabling them to identify, negotiate and maximize socio-economic and other opportunities available in the country; enhance programs that support persons with disabilities and other vulnerable family including OPs members to participate in every sphere of society. Other functions are to monitor and evaluate the State of the family periodically through research and mainstream interventions that promote and protect the family in all policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

Key Messages:

- The role of the family regarding livelihoods of OPs
- Family structure has changed over time
- Universally, the family is viewed as one of the measures of civil order without which no society can function. It influences the way society is structured, organized, and functions.
- The National Family Promotion and Protection Policy looks into the challenges affecting the family and undertakes to address them by providing interventions that the Government in collaboration with stakeholders should implement to realize the policy goal.
- Change in Family structure limiting Socio-economic support systems including poverty and hunger, unemployment, discrimination, harmful practices, HIV/AIDs etc.

The presenter concluded his discussion by mentioning that there are many policies and little implementation-there is need for a wider involvement by all stakeholders, particularly those in private sector, enforce Monitoring & Evaluation while addressing lethargy in government (mainly politicians) and encourage them to focus on the development of the people as opposed to money-oriented projects. In this regard, the use of technical working groups made up of government, NGOs, academia, CSOs, FBOs is a formidable approach within Ministries.

Day 3 (18 November 2021)

13. The work of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) (Agency of AU, (Gambia) Ms. Finh Monique Carine Traore

Ms. Traore provided a synopsis of the function of the institution, challenges faced including lack of political will, limited resources African Commission on Human and Peoples' Right etc. She provided background to date:

- 1981: adoption of the African Charter on Human & Peoples' Rights (African Charter) by the OAU (Organization of African Unity)
- 1986: entry into force of the African Charter
- Article 30 of the African Charter establishes the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to implement the Charter

- 1987: ACHPR Secretariat established in Banjul, The Gambia
- ACHPR jurisdiction: 54 State Parties

NCHPR Application in State Parties:

- Domestication
- Bill of rights in Constitution
- One of the 3 regional human rights systems in the world
- Primary human rights monitoring body in Africa – 34 years
- Composition: 11 Commissioners elected by AU HoSG
- ACHPR Secretariat supports the ACHPR

The ACHPR Mandate covers the following:

- Promotion of human rights
- Protection of human rights
- Interpretation of the African Charter provisions
- 16 subsidiary/special mechanisms
- Special Rapporteurs Committees

ACHPR also functions under Working Groups

- Communications/ cases (quasi-judicial function)
- Inter-state or individuals, NGOs or any interested party
- 735 communications examined to date
- Over 230 pending cases
- Provisional measures – to prevent irreparable harm
- Referral to the AU HoSG (Article 58)
- Protective/ fact-finding missions
- Suo moto or upon the request of the AU HoSG or the AU PSC
- Emergency situations:
- Draw attention of AU Policy Organs & AU PSC
- Urgent letters of appeal

The presenter mentioned that despite its efforts, the institution faces challenges including political will, delay or lack of response – urgent appeals, state reports, mission requests weak implementation of recommendations, limited resources including human resources, no permanent HQ –34 years since establishment, budgetary limitations, limited mandate execution, communications backlog. There is also State Party authorization required, lack of synergy & complementarity with all stakeholders (NANHRI, NHRIs, AU human rights bodies, AU policy organs, States), She shares all the special mechanisms of the ACHPR, committees and special committees and working groups.

14. The Role of the National Citizens Center in Nigeria, National Senior Citizens Center (Nigeria), Mr. Kayode Fagbemi

Mr. Kayode Fagbemi gave a presentation on the role /work of the National Service Citizens in Nigeria and its establishment of 10-year strategic plan-UNDESA offered assistance to this establishment. The National Senior Citizen Center (NSCC) was set up in June 2021 with the

inauguration of the Board and appointment of a Director General. NSCC was set up by the National Senior Citizens' Centre Act 2017 to cater for the needs of senior citizens. It is the first distinct national corporate body with focus on inclusion of senior citizens in sustainable development in the history of Nigeria.

The center Identifies the needs, trainings, and opportunities of senior citizens in Nigeria and is responsible for the provision of recreational, sports, educational, health and social programs and facilities designed for the full enjoyment and benefit of the senior citizens in the country as well as provide guidance and counseling for senior citizens; It initiates, develops and implements productive activities and work schemes for senior citizens in order to provide income or otherwise supplement their earnings; The center also promotes and maintains linkages with state and local governments trainings; keeps records and statistics of senior citizens in the country as well as liaise with national, regional and international agencies involved in the provision of welfare and recreational activities for senior citizens; perform such other functions which are necessary to achieve the purpose for which the Center was established.

Key Messages:

- The National Policy on Ageing is being developed to address the special needs and harness opportunities in the increasing number of older persons in Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to effectively mobilize human and capital resources needed for its primary responsibility in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services of older persons
- The center holds multi-Sectorial, multi- disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional consultative Meetings -in the North and South of Nigeria
- It helps Increase stakeholders' understanding of NSCC's mandate and responsibilities.
- Engages relevant stakeholders across Nigeria on critical issues affecting senior citizens towards the development of a robust 10-year organizational strategy.
- Creates and fosters an environment of collaboration and inclusiveness in key decision making with relevant stakeholders across government, citizens, NGOs, Private sector, Development Partners, research and academia, professional associations, and media

The center faces challenges of coordination, collaborating and mainstreaming Ageism into many structures and working with all levels of government; the location of older persons: most of the older persons are in rural areas where facilities and structures are lacking, funding: being a new organization, funding all programmes, projects activities, and infrastructure necessary for the Center is difficult; Capacity: There is low capacity and the need to build capacity of Board Members, Staff, Health Workers, Legislatures, Local Government workers and Social Workers. Further work is needed in the areas of:

- Advocacy and Policy Dialogue
- Strategic Engagement with Partners
- Community Engagement
- Capacity Building

- Establishment of Zones and State Offices in Nigeria

15. Statistics and Demographic data of Older Persons in Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Department of Demography and Statistics (Nigeria), Ms. Agnes Ugbe

Ms. Agnes Ugbe presented the general population pattern of Nigeria- covering statistics and proportion of older persons in Nigeria. She mentioned that statistics was important to help generate demographic data, while helping disaggregate data based on socioeconomic factors including employment, education, income, marriage rates, birth and death rates, and more. This demographic information can easily and effectively be collected from censuses, surveys and administrative records.

Overall, the population pyramid of Nigeria is beginning to narrow at the youngest ages, there is a clear decline in fertility rate. This is seen to decline from 5.7 in 2008 to 5.5 in 2013 and further to 5.3 children per woman in 2018 (NDHS) Moreover, the United Nations projections based on assumptions of continued moderate fertility decline from 5.3 to 4.9 children per woman by 2030 and further to 3.7 by 2050 is an indication of an increasing number of other age categories which includes older persons. The pattern of fertility decline is based on the stage of demographic transition and some results of family planning programs in Nigeria. Life expectancy also contributes to this growth.

Key Messages:

As a result of the growing number of OPs, (total 10.2 million) in Nigeria the Nigerian government and its development partners developed social protection instruments to tackle the country's high rates of poverty and vulnerability which has led to creation of different programs and policies under the umbrella of Social Protection. The progress so far has been:

- In March 2019, there were 244,945 Pensioners on the Federal Government's pension payroll under the Defined Benefit Scheme. PTAD
- As at March 2019, there were 733,255 older persons with Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) under the CPS, out of which 471,498 RSA holders were from the public sector while 261,757 were from the private sector. PENCOM
- Out of a total of 9,370,131 older persons, 2,752,799 (representing 29.38 percent) have been identified as poor and vulnerable in 2020. And out of this vulnerable older persons, 200,000 have been mined for Older Persons Social Safety-Net Program. (National Social Safety-Net Coordination Office, NASSCO)
- Also the Quarterly Labour Force Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics does not consider age category 65+, leaving out their economic activities which contribute to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product)
- There exist some older persons homes but no proper record

- NHIS does not include persons 60+ including pensioners, they are given conditions which are not friendly to continue to benefit from NHIS
- The country desires to conduct a Multi-Indicator survey on Ageing in 2022

16. Multiple Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA)-Lead consultant for the MISA survey Project (Malawi), Dr. Jesman Chintsanya

Dr. Jesman Chintsanya shared the Findings from the Multi-Indicator survey on Ageing (Malawi) a - 100 pages report. He mentioned that data assessment and gaps led to this study-Malawi's current projected population is 19 million. OP still face a lot of challenges-there are also opportunities –more evidence-based data is needed: The survey covered different Methodologies including -HH (headed households) and individual questionnaires:

- 1886 HH interviews and 2238 individual interviews
- Q.A-funding for survey/ Reporting at subnational levels
- Govt contributed towards surveys and censuses- in partnership with UN entities, donors etc.
- Proportion of persons aged 60+ will increase from 4.9% (2015) to 7.6% (2050), (United Nations, 2017).
- In absolute terms this equates to 0.85 million to 3.3 million persons
- Information captured using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing platform
- Surveys in Malawi use the sampling frame from the 2008 Malawi Population and Housing Census (MPHC)
- Budget constrains - sample was representative at the district level.

Key Messages:

- There is need for more data and statistics on older persons
- The increase in proportion of older persons has both opportunities and challenges
- Opportunities: knowledge and skills which they can use to help families or communities deal with different challenges
- Population of older persons steadily increases in the country, the social, economic and cultural challenges associated with ageing populations are likely to multiply
- OPs entitled to live in an environment that enhances their capabilities.
- Living environment: Most OPs have poor access to safe drinking water
- Health: OP have elevated HIV risk factors
- OP abuse remains pervasive in the society
- Social Protection: coverage remains low; only 37 percent of older persons are accessing the social benefits
- Health and Well-being: As older persons age, they have difficulties in carrying out activities of daily living because of a health or physical problem

17. Contributions and lessons learned by Civil society in advancing the rights of older persons in Sub-Saharan Africa, HelpAge International, Ms. Roseline Kihumba

Ms. Roseline Kihumba shared the role of contribution of civil society organizations in contributing to the rights of older persons- The presenter also mentioned that there were challenges met by CSOs including; scaling up success (linking local initiatives upwards), but challenges in scaling out (replicating the approach in more areas), creating sustainable community structures, limited data and evidence to design effective programmes and policy influencing, limited capacity of CSOs, number, technical, coordination and leadership, limited civic space, effect of covid-19 and sources of funding, inadequate coordination and sharing efforts, the majority operate on charity mode rather than promoting the rights based approaches to development

Amongst initiatives directly contributed by CSOs are:

- Created spaces for engagement, voice and accountability
- Provided data analysis of existing data sets, research and technical studies
- Helped towards formation Older People Associations (FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, INGOs)
- Helped in Information and awareness raising among older persons on relevant rights and relevant (local and national) operational-level responsible office or/and complaint mechanism, public policy processes
- Capacity initiatives amongst older persons, CSOs and duty bearers
- Advocate for lasting improvements (schemes, policies and grievance and complain mechanisms) based on lived experiences of older persons and learning.
- Provide direct technical support to policy design and implementation including financial
- Contribute towards development of manual, guidelines, policies, programmes, etc.
- Contribute to study tours and exchanges (both older persons and policy makers)
- Participate in decision making process (SDGs, Election, UN Decade for Healthy Ageing, UN convention for the rights of older persons)
- Contribute to age inclusive policies and programmes (SP, Health and care, National planning process)
- Contribute to advocacy and campaigns (Age with Rights, ADA, Ageism)

Key Messages:

- CSOs regularly share information using diverse channels – awareness in partnership with media and challenging ageism
- Promote the role of older people leaders in raising complaints.
- Help collect data on older persons including their lived experience which helps catalyze needed change –but they require more investment in capacity building
- CSOs have limited power/authority of Local government officials to respond to older persons petitions and complaints. They often referred issues and complaints to national government.
- Expansion or Inclusion of all diverse older people (gender, disabilities, education, geographical) in older people’s associations or community structures and represented in in various levels needs improvement

- Civil society organizations maximizing on civic spaces created and developing tools for both state and non-state actors
- Rights of older person capacity development of duty bearers with a focus on local authority and older persons
- Support development of rural older persons community structures to enhance meaningful participation in micro planning, community activities and the voice of older persons
- Contribution and support to rural development institutions, policies and plans to include concerns of rural older persons or develop older persons standalone resourced policies and plans
- More research and evidence gathering including strengthening data management systems and recognition of citizen generated data
- Position the benefits of longer life narrative with and within the youth demographic dividend
- Sustained partnerships and collaboration including brokering relationships
- Sustaining coordination, position ageing, voice of older persons and their meaningful participation in diverse public policy

18. AU Revised Draft Policy Framework and Plan of action on Ageing, African Union, (Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang)

Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang shared the Agenda 2063 vision which seeks to deliver on a set of 7 Aspirations. He mentioned that each Aspiration has its own set of goals which if achieved will move Africa closer to achieving its vision for the year 2063. The 7 Aspirations reflect the desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want. The representer further reminded that Africa is and will, for the near future, remain demographically the youngest of all world regions. Its large population share of children and youth represents a key promise for the continent's future. At the same time – and while the proportion of older persons in Africa's population will remain below ten percent in coming decades – their absolute number will grow extraordinarily rapidly: faster than in any other major world region. This ageing of Africa's population must be recognized as another key marker of the continent's unique demography and the potential inherent in it. Africa now faces the urgent challenge and opportunity to forge practices, systems, institutions, and legal and policy environments that can serve the needs and harness the capacities of present and future cohorts of older people, in support of the continent's overall development aspirations.

Key Messages:

- Human rights based approach: all actions and approaches recommended in the policy framework should promote, protect and respect the human rights and freedoms of older persons – and adhere to the principles of universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation, accountability, as committed to by African Member States in key continental and international conventions and instruments, notably in the

African Charter on Human and People's Rights and its Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons.

- Recognize and Redress Inequities- Across all strategic action areas in this framework, it is critical that efforts are made to identify and understand existing intersecting inequities in relevant outcomes, along gender, disability, age or other lines -- and to ensure that responses are designed to redress such disparities.
- Include and center OPs in the development of responses on ageing-Across all strategic action areas in this framework, it is critical that the perspectives of older persons are centered in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of and the reporting on responses.
- Support families and communities: Africa looks to families and their communities as key social groups in which older people's lives unfold and which challenges and opportunities of later life are to be understood.
- Harnessing the potential of New Technologies- Africa is seeing an exponential growth in the penetration and acceptance of information and communications technology (ICT) – with mobile technologies now the largest technological platform in the continent and older persons are both active agents- as well as potential beneficiaries of ICT utilization and interventions and these technologies can play an important role in the forging of responses on ageing.
- Expanding social protection: In Social Agenda 2063, Africa recognizes the right to social protection across the lifecycle. Ensuring access to social protection is both an economic and a social imperative: necessary for promoting inclusive and people driven sustainable development that will reduce poverty and inequalities and generate resilience against future shocks.
- Harnessing the intersection of Ageing with other major demographic, social and environmental trends: In addition to population ageing, Africa is experiencing a set of other major demographic, social and environmental trends, key among which are migration and displacement, urbanization and the growth of urban slums, climate change and emergencies as well as their implications for rural development. Older people are affected by- and at the same time, can shape the form of, and responses to these critical concerns.

The presenter also mentioned that for all these to occur there is need for enforcing strategic action areas including; adapting and ensuring access to health systems, developing long-term care systems, investing in older people's intergenerational roles, ensuring access to adequate housing and infrastructure, support older people's active participation in political and government processes, ensuring access to learning and education in later life, fostering Africa – centered research and training on ageing and later life, enabling younger people to prepare for a later life. In this regard he stressed the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders including the; African Union Commission, Other AU Organs, Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Older Persons Organizations, CSOs and other non-state actors (CSOs, Donors, UN Agencies, the Private Sector, Community Leaders, Faith-based Organizations, Academia, and Media).

19. The Fourth Review and Appraisal of MIPAA- UNDESA/DISD, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Ms. Shatho Nfila

Ms. Shatho Nfila made reference to the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) resolution 2020/8 which adopted the modalities of the 4th review and appraisal of MIPAA. She reminded the participants that “MIPAA is a key platform and tool for handling issues relevant to older persons and population ageing, and its review and appraisal provides us with the chance to discuss progress, jointly identify challenges, opportunities and prevalent issues and related policy options together with Member States.”. The presenter then shared guidelines to the bottom-up participatory approach which include:

- (a) the identification of stakeholders and how to work with them.
- (b) how to review national policies and define priorities for action on ageing.
- (c) how to review the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action with older persons through bottom-up participatory assessments; and
- (d) how to distil and analyze information at the national, regional and global levels
- National consultative reviews involving both government and civil society utilizing a bottom-up approach will provide the main basis for the regional review process.
- It is anticipated that the review process will be supported by other UN agencies, the African Union Commission and civil society organizations.

Key Messages:

The timeline of the 4th Review and Appraisal is as follows:

2020: The Commission, at its 58th session, decided on the modalities

2021: National reviews and appraisals are ongoing

2022: Regional review processes take place

2023: Global review by the Commission for Social Development at its 61st session

- The Review and appraisal at the regional level comprises of providing assistance to Member States, upon request, in the organization of their national review and appraisal exercises
- The exercise will involve -Organizing regional review meetings, assisting Member States, upon request, in following up on analysis resulting from the regional reviews. using an inclusive and coordinated approach in relation to the participation of civil society in the planning and evaluation processes of the review and appraisal exercise, promoting networking and the sharing of information and experiences, providing an analysis of the main findings, identifying key priority action areas and good practices and suggesting policy responses by 2022 and assisting and providing advice to governments, upon their request, within existing resources, in the gathering, synthesis and analysis of information, as well as in the presentation of the findings of national reviews and appraisals.

- The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) undertook a preliminary analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the continent's ageing population and social protection responses. Findings and recommendations will inform the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA.
- The ECA secretariat will provide guidance and technical support to member states as they prepare their national reports. National consultative reviews involving both government and civil society that follow a bottom-up approach will provide the main basis for the regional review process. The national reports will form the main input of the regional review report.
- A high-level policy forum will be organized for member states to endorse the regional report as well as share experiences in the implementation of MIPAA.
- It is anticipated that the review process will be supported by other UN agencies, the African Union Commission and civil society organizations. Beyond this, sustained dialogue and engagement amongst member states and stakeholders will be facilitated by ECA in the lead up to the global review in 2023.

The presenter also mentioned that there were challenges foreseen in the 4th Review and Appraisal process including; Lack of data availability in many countries, inability to carry out comparative analyses between countries in several regions due to the absence of agreed indicators at the regional level, difficulty in gathering inputs from all relevant ministries where coordination units on ageing do not exist at the national level, lack of capacity and limited national institutional frameworks in some countries and regions to engage or respond to the review and appraisal process at the national level, regional disparities: While there are many commonalities among the regions, substantial regional variations are also evident in what each region considers to be prevalent and emerging issues in relation to population ageing and older persons, and consequently on the focus and policy approach towards promoting the well-being of older persons in each context. Mainstreaming ageing: this is essential to move towards achieving the transformative changes that are required for societies to adapt to the implications of longevity and population ageing. COVID-19 pandemic: The pandemic has heavily impacted the work carried out by Governments to support older persons and their human rights, including activities related to the 4th review and appraisal of MIPAA. Economic security in old age: This remains a priority and a challenge in many countries. Social Isolation: The impact of social isolation and loneliness among older people is a growing public health and public concern. Other issues including Digital Technologies and Climate Crisis.