



SGA AFRICA SIDE EVENT FOR THE 8TH SESSION OF THE UNECA ARFSD

INTERACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGIES TO ENSURE AGE INCLUSIVENESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS ACROSS AFRICA IN BUILDING FORWARD BETTER DURING RECOVERY FROM COVID 19

March 1-2, 2022

Concept Note

The SGA Africa side event would take place during the 8th session of the ARFSD holding in Kigali, Rwanda between March 1 to 2nd 2022

Introduction

Africa is experiencing the highest increase in the number of older persons. Between 2020 and 2050, the older African population is projected to triple from 74.4 million to 235.1 million. Its growth in the next three decades will outpace that of any other region of the world.¹ The rapidly increasing demographics heighten concerns about wellbeing and protection of rights of older persons. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has revealed gaps in the systems and structures for providing care, provision of services (social, health) with the older persons bearing the greater burden of these across the continent.

While Africa is still struggling with attaining the sustainable development goals (SDGs,) compared to other regions of the world, the disruptions in service provision, roll out of development programs and funding of programs caused by pandemics such as Ebola and still ongoing, COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian crises such as ethnic clashes, floods, banditry, have revealed the lack of resilience in our systems and further widened the gap in SDG attainment for Africa.

The pandemic and the global response especially as it pertains to vaccine availability also have further highlighted the inequities that exist, with richer countries been able to procure vaccines more readily making them available to their citizens with greater vaccine uptake, up to 60-75% in Europe and USA, compared to the abysmal number in Africa, where only 10.4% of the population are fully vaccinated (Africa CDC, 2020).

For Africa to harness the dividend of longevity, older adult's rights must be respected, and development programs centered around them for sustainable growth of the continent.

Africa's older persons have a right to effective inclusion and participation in the implementation of sustainable development agenda 2030 and African Union agenda 2063 and in the enjoyment of the benefits from development. SDGs implementation progress measured so far indicate however, that the policy priorities within the SDGs that must be measured and reported for older persons as requested by UN Statistics Division on behalf of the International Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) are lacking in indicators and age disaggregated data². Older persons are disproportionately voiceless, marginalized, and vulnerable. Legal foundations for ageing programs and older persons' access to justice are critical to reinforcing governments' commitment to age specific social innovations including, devising older persons are disproportionately voiceless, marginalized, and vulnerable. Legal foundations for ageing programs and older persons' access to justice are critical to reinforcing governments' commitment to age specific social innovations including, devising policies, data disaggregation, innovative partnerships and

new forms of business actions which are needed in support of inclusion of older persons in SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.

Focus of Side Event

The discussions will focus on strengthening older persons rights by promoting new efforts in Africa to establish compelling legal frameworks, which are needed to improve effectiveness, inclusiveness, and accountability. Conversations will showcase the infringements to the rights of older persons in strategies for building back better during COVID-19 recovery and measures for overcoming them. It will discuss equity and fairness in the ways older persons are dealt with and system of laws which can challenge and replace inequities, promote the designing of programmes and services to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable are included in solving problems that affect them directly. Outcomes will be geared towards consultations, engagement that would ensure that older persons are not left behind in development plans across the continent.

Objectives

The SGA Africa side event goals include:

- To create a platform for member states to share experiences, and challenges of inclusion of older persons in the development agenda.
- To showcase policy, programmatic gaps in implementation of older persons' programs.
- To catalyze discussion among member states and other stakeholders on *measures to remedy the existing discrimination and redress multi--sectoral inequities against older persons with focus on access to care during crises such as the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.*
- *To share national experiences of campaigns for legal frameworks on age inclusiveness including rights to COVID- 19 vaccines.*

Organization of Conference

Presentations by member states and representative of human rights commission

Robust discussions by the diverse participants that are expected

Partners/ Sponsors

UNDESA

INPEA

HelpAge International

AUC

CSOs

Reference

1. US Census Bureau, U., 2022. *Census Bureau Releases New Report on Aging in Africa.* [online] Census.gov. Available at <<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/aging-in-africa>>.

2. *The 'Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data,' endorsed at the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2018, is a global initiative aimed at improving data that provide an in-depth understanding of the situation of older persons and inform decision-making processes.*