



## African Regional High Level Conference On Human Rights Situation of Older Persons

For the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons  
25-26 November 2019 | Venue: ECOWAS Parliament Complex, Herbert Macaulay Way, Garki Abuja, Nigeria | 9:00am

### Agenda of High -Level Conference

The African Regional High-Level Conference on Human Rights Situation of older persons in Africa holds from 25 to 26 November 2019 in ECOWAS Parliament Chamber, at the ECOWAS Parliament Complex in Abuja, Nigeria

#### **Background**

The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is important to achieve a society for all ages, in which older persons participate fully and without discrimination and on the basis of equality. However, experiences of older persons and the particular context of old age is still not sufficiently addressed from a human rights perspective. The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner reports that when it comes to older persons, the current legal frameworks at both the national and international levels remain grossly inadequate and inconsistent, with only a limited number of countries that provide explicit guarantees of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of age.<sup>1</sup>

In Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons<sup>2</sup> was adopted in 2016. Articles of the Protocol are the product of consultations and build on the 2002 African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing as well the United Nations Principles on Older Persons, which address independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. To date, 11 countries have signed the Protocol and only 1 country has ratified.

Action to support the rights of older persons globally has been discussed at the United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group, which was established in 2010 for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.<sup>3</sup> The Stakeholder Group on Ageing Africa (SGA Africa) complemented this conversation by holding a High-level side event entitled "Independence, Autonomy and Rights of Older Persons in the African Context" at the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group in April 2019<sup>4</sup>. Against the above backdrop, and to sustain momentum in the run up to the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group in April 2020, the Government of Nigeria, the National Human Rights Commission and the Stakeholder Group on Ageing Africa (SGA Africa), in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (DESA) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) convene a two--day regional inter-sessional expert conference on the theme: **The Human Rights Situation of Older Persons in Africa.**

<sup>1</sup> OHCHR (2019) Video Message by the High Commissioner delivered at the 10<sup>th</sup> working session of the United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. Available at <http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/21491312/hc-video-owega-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Available at [https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/32900-file-protocol\\_on\\_the\\_rights\\_of\\_older\\_persons\\_e.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/32900-file-protocol_on_the_rights_of_older_persons_e.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Additional information available at <https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>

<sup>4</sup> Watch event at <http://bit.ly/2ZvLreu>

## **Objective**

The conference aims to sensitize national governments on the human rights situation of older persons in Africa and identify key areas for action, including the ratification of the regional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older People and support for OEWGA on-going debate on strengthening of the protection of the rights of older persons

## **Agenda Items**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019**

**Opening Ceremony** featuring high level remarks and address by Representatives of Government of Nigeria, ECOWAS Parliament, President of 74<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly and official declaration of commencement of proceedings by H. E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Special Guest of Honour*

## **Working Session**

- [1]. **Plenary I:** The Human Rights Situation of Older Persons in Africa: Key Challenges and Opportunities-Panel of older persons: Contextualizing the Reality of Older Persons in Africa: Equality and Non-discrimination, Neglect, Violence, Abuse and Stigmatization
  - [2]. **Plenary II:** Focus on Health, Ageing and Human Rights - The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030): Challenges, Good Practices & Lessons Learned
  - [3]. **Plenary III:** The Human Rights Framework on Older Persons and its Application in African Region
  - [4]. **Plenary IV:** Advancing Towards an International Human Rights Instrument to Protect the Human Rights of Older Persons: the Work of the Open-ended Working Group
  - [5]. **Expert discussions;** open moderated dialogues and question and answer sessions following each plenary Reflections and Key Recommendations
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**Tuesday 26 November 2019**

## **OFFICIAL ECOWAS PLENARY SESSION**

- [6]. Overcoming Challenges and Identifying Opportunities to Strengthen the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa and the Support to the OEWG  
Presiding, Rt. Honourable Moustapha Cisse Lo, Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament
- [7]. Stakeholders address of Parliament on Measures to enhance the protection of the human rights of older persons
- [8]. Interactive discussions
- [9]. Conference Declaration

## **In Attendance**

Member States | UN Organizations | Human Rights Institutions | ECOWAS Parliamentarians | Stakeholder Group on Ageing | Older Activists | Academia | NGOs