

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**In collaboration with**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, DAVE OMOKARO FOUNDATION  
&  
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

**NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AGEING AND CARE OF OLDER  
PERSONS**

**THEME: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: PROMOTING A  
SOCIETY FOR ALL**

**October 21, 2014**

**NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA-NIGERIA**

*Communiqué and Framework for Priority Action*

## Background

The increasingly growing needs of senior citizens in Nigerian for medical, social and economic services has prompted the prevailing attention of government and the Nigeria initiative on Ageing on how best to attend to the needs of older persons. In absolute terms, the number of Nigerian Older Persons has consistently increased from 4,598,114 million in 1991 to 6,987.047 million in 2006. Experts have also estimated that the figure will hit 8,044,752million in 2014, 10million by 2020 and about 28million in 2050, if the current inter-causal growth rate of 3.2% persist (NPopC, 2013).

In cognisance of the improving economies of the world including those of the developing countries and the longevity that comes with it, as well as the unique roles the older persons play in the society, the United Nations in 2006 introduced the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) by Member-Nations. It is against this background that the ***National Summit on Ageing and Care of Older Persons*** was organized. The National initiative convened by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in collaboration with Dave Omokaro Foundation, World Health Organization and other stakeholders was aimed at making a demand on all sectors to specifically articulate how universal goals and targets of National development will be delivered henceforth without **leaving older Nigerians behind**.

## Objectives of the National Summit

To:

- i- Identify obstacles that stand in the way of action on ageing
- ii- Effectively set National priority direction concerning issues of older persons and development.
- iii- Propose a National Framework of Response to development goals and targets that are grounded in human right principles, non-discrimination, equity inclusion, participation and empowerment of Nigerians of all ages.
- iv- Advocate for adequate mobilisation of resources at the national and international levels from all available funding mechanisms including SURE-P, to ensure the implementation of plans of action.
- v- Encourage international organisations including those of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to assist government and NGOs in addressing gaps and challenges relevant to ageing population and development.
- vi- Invite the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to designate a focal point for handling international and domesticated National Plans of Action on Ageing.
- vii- Highlight population ageing as a phenomenon with opportunities for job

---

## Communiqué

---

A National Summit **on Ageing and Care of Older Person with the theme Leaving No One Behind: Promoting a Society for All** was held on Tuesday, 21 October, 2014 at Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in collaboration with the Dave Omokaro Foundation, World Bank Organisation and Other Stakeholders.

A total of four (4) papers were presented by experts drawn from the academia, MDAs and Non-Governmental Organisations titled, **Healthy Ageing and Geriatric Care: Older Persons Right to Continuum of Integrated Geriatric Health Services** – Professor Temitope Alonge, Chief Medical Director, University College Hospital Ibadan, University of Ibadan; **Social Protection: Access, Equity and Inclusion of Vulnerable Older Persons** - Ebele A. Ukpong, PhD, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, Ibadan; **Enabling and Supportive Environment that Permit Independence, Active Participation and Harnessing Skills and Experience of Older Persons into Productive Assets** - John Ukawuilulu, Professor of Sociology and Gerontology, Nassarawa State University, Keffi and Professor Princewill Alozie, Professor of Philosophy, LASU and Member Board of Trustees, Dave Omokaro Foundation; **Resource Mobilisation and Sustainable Service Delivery- The Role of Government, the Private Sector and Development Partners.** Dr. Kelechi Ohiri, SA to Hon Minister of Finance and CME.

Following, a comprehensive discussion by panels of discussants, including Senior Citizens, NGOs, Academia and MDAs on each thematic area and the interactive session, We, the participants at the National Summit on Ageing and Care of Older Persons held at Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014

### **Noted:**

1. That the absolute number of older persons in Nigeria is rapidly increasing standing currently at 8million, expected to reach 10million in 2020 and 28million in 2050, with corresponding increasing demands on the geriatric health care delivery, income security and enabling and supportive environment;
2. The perception of ageing and concerns of older persons from as welfare and ad-hoc issues rather than as a right- based and sustainable development concern and the non inclusion of older persons in all national development initiatives.
3. That the older persons are considered as a burden and as active participants and continuing productive contributors to their families, communities and national economy;
4. The non-inclusion of older persons' health concerns in the national primary health care development and delivery system in Nigeria.
5. That ageing comes with decreasing physiological reserve, immobility, instability, incontinences, impaired memory, visual and hearing impairments
6. The older persons as Nigerian citizens have the right to a live of dignity, including health, income security, productive ageing

7. The need for the adoption of a right based, multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach to ageing and care of older persons in Nigeria
8. The dearth of research and desegregated data on ageing and issues of older persons in Nigeria.
9. The existence of a draft National Policy on Ageing since 2008, at the disposal of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
10. The need for the establishment of a lobby group to champion the advocacy on the concerns of older persons
11. The need for the establishment of a coordinating agency to ensure that statutory roles and specific ownership action by relevant MDAs and crucial stakeholders as they pertain to meeting the needs of the older persons are clarified and delivered
12. The need to mainstream ageing and care-giving education into our schools curriculum from the elementary to tertiary levels
13. The poor coverage of ageing related issues by the media in Nigeria
14. Diversity in the needs of the older persons by different advocacy groups

## **Recommended;**

1. That they should be an urgent national framework for sustainable response to the increasing growing numbers of older persons and the associated increasing demands on the health care delivery, income security and enabling and supportive environment

2. That medical, social and economic challenges of older persons should be deliberately included in the nation's sustainable development plans and not addressed as welfarist concerns on ad-hoc basis
3. National Primary Health Care Centers across the country should be modified to provide geriatric care services and the infrastructure should be made age friendly
4. The establishment of Geriatrics centres in Government Hospitals in the country using the University Teaching Hospital Ibadan, (University of Ibadan) integrated Model of Geriatric Care Management.
5. The provision of old age grant or special monthly allowance for older persons to provide protection floors for vulnerable older personsThe Establishment of Skilled Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages should be incorporated in program designs, planning and regulation to serve older persons and families in need of such respite
6. The skills and experiences of older persons should be innovatively engaged as productive assets.
7. The establishment of a coordinating Agency to ensure that statutory roles and specific ownership action by relevant MDAs and crucial stakeholders as they pertain to meeting the needs of the older persons are clarified and delivered.
8. Health Promotion including accessibility to proper nutrition information by older persons
9. The formulation of an enabling Law by the National Assembly should for the implementation of the proposed National Policy on Ageing, which will also serve as a National Social Protection Law for Older Persons

10. That attention should be given to the older persons population in the same way it is being given to the Nigerian child within the age of five
11. The institution of a functional and sustainable Health Insurance Scheme for older persons
12. The training of Professionals and Para-professionals in the fields of ageing and geriatric care management
13. The introduction of age friendly facilities in homes, hospitals and indeed in all private and public institutions
14. The establishment of Senior Citizens Centres for Recreation and Health Promotion across the country
15. The subsidisation of Housing, health care and transportation for retired elder persons and the services providers' acknowledgment of the seniority, physical and mental capacities of older persons in delivery of public services
16. Articulation of uniform need of the older persons by a coalition of NGOs for a coordinated advocacy on action on Ageing and concerns of older persons
17. That there should be promotion of intergenerational solidarity and youth volunteerism in the care for older persons both in the rural and urban areas as well as older persons volunteerism in mentoring of youths through Experience Corps Programs
18. The introduction Ageing and care-giving in our schools curriculum from the elementary to tertiary level to inculcate cultural values of respect and age-friendly attitude in the Nigerian child



19. That the media should promote age friendly programs as a form of advocacy on the concerns of older persons in Nigeria that would galvanise attitudinal change towards older persons
20. The need for building capacities of persons and institutions involved in policy formulation, program designs and services delivery in government agencies in the field of ageing
21. That there should be huge investment in research and disaggregated data in the fields of ageing.
22. A multi-dimensional and cross-cutting approaches when attending to the concerns of the elderly.
23. That the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development should as a matter of national importance appoint an open ended working group on ageing and rights of older persons, which among, sundry issues, will review the existing Draft National Policy on Ageing in line with current realities for the finalisation of work on the National Policy on Ageing.
24. The establishment of 'National Champions' for Older Persons, a lobby group to lead the advocacy on ageing and development in affirmation of older persons

## **Resolution and Appreciation**

Finally, we the Participants at the Summit resolved to collectively carry out relevant post summit activities, including conferring with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development for the development of Nigeria's National Policy on Ageing, and expressed gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, World Health

Organisation, Dave Omokaro Foundation and indeed other stakeholders, who contributed to the success of the event.

**Signed**

**Federal Ministry of Women Affairs. Dave Omokaro Foundation. W.H.O.**