

**DRAFT
NATIONAL
POLICY ON
AGEING**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

- Policy Declaration ----- 5
- Basic Philosophy ----- 5
- Vision ----- 6
- Mission ----- 6
- Scope ----- 6
- Goals ----- 7
- Objectives-----7

CHAPTER TWO

SYMPTOMATOLOGY ----- 7

- Background ----- 7
- Definition ----- 8
- Perceptions -----8
- Demographic Profile -----8
- Quality of life of Older Persons -----9

➤ Key International Instruments and Conventions -----	10
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CHAPTER THREE

POLICY ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

➤ Rights -----	11
➤ Information and Advocacy -----	11
➤ Poverty -----	15
➤ Health -----	16
➤ Food and Nutrition -----	18
➤ Housing and Living Environment-----	20
➤ Family -----	21
➤ Social Welfare -----	23
➤ Employment and Income Security -----	24
➤ Crises, Emergencies and Epidemics-----	27
➤ Ageing and Migration -----	29
➤ Education and Training -----	31
➤ Gender -----	33
➤ Culture, Social Integration and Participation-----	36
➤ Ageing and Disabilities -----	37

CHAPTER FOUR

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ----- 40

➤ Stakeholders -----	40
➤ Target Groups -----	40

CHAPTER FIVE

➤ Resource Mobilization -----	44
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CHAPTER SIX

- Research and Planning ----- 46

CHAPTER SEVEN

- Monitoring and Evaluation ----- 47

CHAPTER EIGHT

- Coordinating Agency ----- 49

CHAPTER NINE

- Policy Review ----- 51

Abbreviation

AU	-	African Union
UN	-	United Nations
FBO	-	Faith Based Organization
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
PABHA	-	People Affected by HIV/AIDs
PLWHA	-	People Living with HIV/AIDs
NPC	-	National Population Commission
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NBA	-	Age-Based Association
NAPTIP	-	National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other related Offences

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

1.1.1 Growing old is a natural phenomenon, that entails serious problems of adjustment and well-being. Ageing is a normal biological process in a life cycle. The phenomenon of ageing has of recent been the focus of the international community, particularly regarding its economic , social, political and scientific dimensions.

1.1.2 Economic and social changes in Nigeria have contributed greatly to the loss of capacities and the deprivations to which older persons are exposed. This has reduced the support which the family of older persons, especially their children and the community have been able to provide for them.

1.1.3 The resultant effect of these changes leads to deprivation, social exclusion, and loneliness among the older persons in Nigeria. This National policy on Ageing is Nigeria's response to the emerging issues on Ageing.

1.2 POLICY DECLARATION

1.2.1 The Federal Government is aware that older persons have special needs and face some major constraints in their bid to satisfy their needs. The Federal Government also stresses its primary responsibility in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons.

1.2.2 The Federal Government hereby formally declares its firm resolve and commitment to protect the human rights of older persons and in particular to undertake and promote all relevant measures to safeguard and continuously advance the care and well-being of all older persons. While accepting primary responsibility for providing leadership on ageing matters on

the implementation of this policy, the Federal Government recognizes the need for effective collaboration with States and Local Governments, International Agencies, Older persons themselves and their Organizations, the Media, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), the Organized Private Sector, Professional Organizations, Institutions and other stakeholders.

1.3 **BASIC PHILOSOPHY**

1.3.1 This National Policy on Ageing in Nigeria is rooted in the traditional respect for and high regard in which older persons are usually held. This arose partly from the important position they occupy and the important roles played by them in the traditional society and the equally fervent concern of people for their happiness and welfare. It flows from the realization that older persons as a social category has special needs, socio-economic and health problems requiring specialized attention and treatment. It is informed by the fact that due to current demographic changes, there is a steady increase in the number and proportion of the Nigerian population now attaining old age.

1.3.2 The fundamental human rights of older persons as enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) are gradually being eroded due to the increase in the number of older persons and the diminishing activeness of the extended family kinship and other traditional support systems. Consequently, this National Policy on Ageing seeks to ensure that older persons in Nigeria enjoy a life of health, security, fulfillment and contentment with their own families and communities.

1.4 **VISION**

1.4.1 To respond to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing and to promote development which will provide guidance in areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity for older persons.

1.5 **MISSION**

1.5.1 To ensure that older persons, enjoy a life fulfillment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies. Government is therefore determined to enhance the recognition of the dignity of

older persons and to eliminate all forms of discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence.

1.6 **SCOPE**

1.6.1 This Policy encompasses wide ranging challenges of older persons identified in the following areas; income, health care, food/nutrition, upkeep of their families, gender, housing water, power, transportation, clothing, recreation, social contact, socio-cultural and political and voluntary services.

1.7 **GOAL**

1.7.1 To provide an enabling environment and support for older persons to achieve their personal goals and realize their potentials through participation in the family, community and the larger society.

1.8 **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

1.8.1 The general objectives of this policy are:

- (a) To create and sustain awareness of the situation of older persons.
- (b) To guarantee an improved quality of life for older persons in Nigeria.
- (c) To ensure total integration of older persons in the society.
- (d) To strengthen the traditional support systems for older persons.
- (e) To guarantee adequate and sustainable income security.
- (f) To ensure that the fundamental human rights of older persons are upheld and protected.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 SYMPTOMATOLOGY

2.1. BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The global perception of ageing has changed from the traditional belief that all older persons are helpless. While it is true that many older persons need assistance, some are not only healthy but are secure economically. They also have skills and resources that, if properly harnessed could make a difference in national development. However, the traditional support and care for the aged both in rural and urban communities have continued to decline especially in the face of the changing socio-economic climate. The breakdown of the extended family system which used to be the bedrock of support for older persons, coupled with rural-urban migration of the younger generation has adversely affected the quality of care given the older persons, hence the need for a well articulated policy on ageing.

2.2 DEFINITION

2.2.1 Ageing is the process of growing old. For the purposes of this policy, an older person refers to anyone aged 60 years and above.

2.2.2 The older population is not a homogeneous group. They can be grouped in terms of component age groups, distinguishing younger and older segments as follows: (a) 60 - 74: The young Old
(b) 75 – 79: The Aged (c) 80
and above: The Oldest Old

2.3 PERCEPTIONS

2.3.1 The prevalent conception of the older person is one who is helpless and constitutes a burden on the government, family and society. This misconception is now changing all over the world including Nigeria, in view of the wealth of

experience older persons possess which could be tapped and utilized for the good of the society.

2.3.2 Older persons are custodians of our culture and help to pass on our esteemed cultural values, norms and morals from one generation to another, thus preserving our culture particularly in the face of urbanization and foreign influence.

2.4 **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

2.4.1 The world is facing the phenomenon of a growing population. Not only is the population of the aged increasing, the aged are living longer whereas there were only 200million older person globally by 1950, United Nations demographic projection reveal that they will rise to 2billion by 2050. Furthermore, UN projections are that by 2050 the population of older persons will, for the first time in human history, be more than that of children under the age of 14years. Africa alone is projected to register a phenomenal increase from the current estimate of slightly over 38million to 212million in 2050. Thus, Africa's older population will increase six-fold in five decades.

2.4.2 Although the HIV/AIDS epidemic is projected to reduce life expectancy in African countries including Nigeria, the population of older persons will continue to grow older and probably live longer than previous generations.

2.4.3 According to a projection of the Nigerian population census of 1991, the population of older persons was estimated at 5.8million by 2005, 16million by 2030 and 47 million by 2060. Such rapid increases in the numbers of older persons in the Nigerian population will have critical implication for the Nigerian economic, political and social structure. The majority of older persons in Nigeria are men(54%).Most older people in Nigeria live in rural areas and this trend is expected to continue. Also, it is projected that by 2020, 64% of people over 60years will be living in areas defined as rural. This statistics include more than two-thirds of all older persons (72%). The distribution of the older population in Nigeria, reflects the underlying migratory movements of young persons to urban centres in the country.

2.4.4 The increase in the older population is the result of dramatic improvements in longevity due to lower levels of fertility and mortality. Such rapid growth poses

great challenge and will require far-reaching economic and social adjustments to cope with demands of population ageing.

2.5 **QUALITY OF LIFE OF OLDER PERSONS**

2.5.1 Older persons are vulnerable group with peculiar needs and aspirations. They have problems peculiar to them that directly affect their quality of life. Older persons are supposed to live a life of rest, leisure and happiness after years of toil. However life for a majority of older persons, is characterized by idleness, loneliness and poverty. The following are some of the challenges facing the majority of older persons in Nigeria.

- (a) inadequate income security and various deprivations which go with ageing;
- (b) inability to access basic medical care
- (c) marginalization, discrimination and abuse
- (d) isolation and loneliness
- (e) inadequate access to proper housing , recreation and social interaction
- (f) lack of other personal welfare services e.g Home visits.
- (g) burden of caring for orphans of HIV and AIDS victims, people affected by HIV and AIDS (PABHA) and the victim themselves; people living with HIV AND AIDS(PLWHA).
- (h) poor health due to Ageing
- (i) Absence of adequate national framework (National Policy, plan of Action, Social Legislations and other instruments) for ensuring the Protection and well-being of older persons.

2.6 **KEY INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS**

2.6.1 There are five age specific international instruments that should

Protect the rights of older persons namely;

- (a) UN proclamation on Ageing 1992
- (b) UN Principles for Older Persons – 1992
- (c) UN International plan of Action on Ageing – 2002

- (d) UN Political Declaration of Ageing -2002
- (e) AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing 2002

2.7 **OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

2.7.1 Other instruments include:

- (a) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- (b) UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 1948
- (c) African Charter of Human and people’s Rights 1981
- (d) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966
- (e) International Covenant on Economic, Social and cultural rights (ICESCR) 1966
- (f) UN Declaration on the Rights to Development - 1986
- (g) The convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination(CERD) 1965.
- (h) The convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) -1979
- (i) The Convention against torture and other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment(CAT) – 1984
- (j) The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – 1989
- (k)International labour Organization Conventions (various)
- (l) UN Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for persons With disabilities 1996
- (m) African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the child
- (n) Social Development Policy for Nigeria (1989)
- (o) Child Rights Act 2003

2.7.2 The presence of instruments providing for the rights of the aged does not ensure the protection of older persons. This policy calls for the rights and protection of older persons to be guaranteed as defined in the instruments above listed.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 POLICY ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.1 RIGHTS

3.1.1 ISSUE

3.1.1.1 Older persons are important members of the Nigerian society and are entitled to respect and dignity that citizenship confers on all Nigerians. Unfortunately, older persons are abused socially, physically, sexually, economically and psychologically. Their basic human rights, such as the right to life and liberty, the right to work and the right to freedom from discrimination are violated.

3.1.1.2 Older persons are accused by family and community members of all sorts of misdeeds from witchcraft to preventing or causing too much rain for which they are tortured and assaulted. This age-based discrimination is pervasive and has prevented them from accessing basic rights such as adequate health care and legal protection.

3.1.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1.2.1 Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) has made provisions that are of relevant to older persons. The significance of that section is that it provides the foundation for a rights-based approach to older persons. The emphasis from this is that older persons rights are not privileges but human rights that include:

- (a) Equality before the law
- (b) Prohibition against discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, gender, disability.
- (c) Freedom from all forms of violence
- (d) Protection against arbitrary deprivation of property.

3.1.3 **OBJECTIVES**

3.1.3.1 The objectives are;

- (a) ensure that the rights of older persons are recognized by all citizens
- (b) commit itself to abolishing all forms of discrimination based on age, gender, and disability.
- (c) ensure that the rights of older persons are protected by appropriate Legislations
- (d) promote the rights of older persons to organize themselves into Groups in order to advance their interest
- (e) provide opportunity for older persons to be integrated in the Society and participate actively in the formulation and the Implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being.
- (f) Guarantee for older persons opportunity to benefit from community Care and protection in accordance with Nigerian cultural values.
- (g) guarantee for older persons, access to social and legal services, to Enforce their rights and enhance their independence, participation, Self-fulfillment, protection and care.

3.1.4 **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

3.1.4.1 Government shall:

- (a) Make provision for specific and direct legal assistance to older persons to defend their rights.
- (b) Enact legislation which makes it an offence for family members, the community or other persons to abuse older persons.
- (c) Elaborate and adopt an additional protocol to the African Charter on

Human and people's Rights relating to the rights of older persons.

- (d) Include older persons in the development, review and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated national policy to meet the needs of older persons.
- (e) Ensure that the UN principles for Older Persons (1991) (independence, dignity, self-fulfillment, participation and care) are legally binding and enforceable.
- (f) Develop and review legislation to ensure that older persons receive equitable treatment under customary and statutory laws including reviews of legislation on property and land rights; inheritance laws and social security legislation.
- (g) Enact enabling legislation requiring adults to provide support for their Parents.
- (h) Ensure that when children are left in the care of older persons, the parents of such children should provide adequate financial and/or material support.
- (i) Ensure that data is collected and collated on the number of older Persons who are victims of crime.
- (j) Implement programmes of civic and public education, including Schools, to address issues arising from witchcraft allegations and Other human right abuses.
- (k) Improve older persons access to legal services through public Enlightenment.
- (i) To ensure that older persons are aware of their rights;

- (ii) To ensure that communities understand the rights of older persons
- (l) Ensure that sensitization and information programmes relating to
The rights of older persons involve older persons at all levels.
- (m) Ensure that the training of all public servants and private sector based
Personnel includes information on the rights of older persons.
- (n) Develop and review the training curricula for social workers, care
Givers and all those working with older persons to ensure that they
Adequately include the rights of older persons.

3.2 **INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY:**

3.2.1 **ISSUES:**

3.2.1.1 There is relatively little information about the situation of older persons in Nigeria. The absence of comprehensive information means that ageing is poorly understood and, as a result, resources are not adequately allocated to meet the needs of older persons.

3.2.1.2 The needs and rights of older persons are cross cutting and so ageing Issues need to be integrated into the policies and work of all stakeholders. Negative attitudes towards older persons limit their access to information Thus increasing their social and economic vulnerability, Hence, there is a Great need for sensitization programmes to ensure the full understanding Of ageing issues and the concept of the responsibility of all to older persons.

3.2.2 **OBJECTIVES:**

3.2.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure that comprehensive data on the situation of older persons is compiled and made accessible to all.

- (b) ensure that the needs and rights of older persons are integrated into all existing and new policies in all sectors.
- (c) ensure that co-ordinating and monitoring mechanisms are established at all levels of Government so that issues affecting older persons are addressed effectively.
- (d) create awareness among policy makers, the media and civil society

3.2.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.2.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) Undertake research to identify, compile, analyse and present data relating to older persons in the Nigerian society.
- (b) Liase with the National Population Commission (NPC) for the collection and analysis of national census data specific to the needs of older persons
- (c) Improve data collection about the contribution of older persons to the economy, including their participation in the informal economy and in unremunerated work including household work and subsistence agriculture.
- (d) Identify information gaps that exist in relation to the needs and rights of Older persons.
- (e) Draw up guidelines to facilitate the implementation of appropriate policies regarding older persons.
- (f) Encourage and support individuals and organizations that give assistance to older persons.
- (g) Strengthen or establish national co-ordinating structures (bringing together Representatives of older persons, line ministries and other stakeholders)

to ensure that the needs of older persons are addressed.

- (h) Ensure enlightenment of the populace to change attitude that prevent Older persons from accessing services available to them.
- (i) Implement public education programmes to create awareness and Understanding of the rights of older persons to strengthen the image and dignity of older persons in the society.
- (j) Include issues related to older persons and family responsibilities in the curricula of educational institutions at all levels.
- (k) Remove language barriers, and ensure that information communicated are understood by older persons.

3.3 **POVERTY:**

3.3.1 **ISSUES:**

3.3.1.1 One of the aims of this policy is the eradication of poverty among older persons. Although global attention has recently been focused more actively on poverty reduction targets and policies, older persons in many countries still tend to be excluded from these policies and programmes. where poverty is endemic, persons who survive a life time of poverty often face an old age of deepening poverty, as older persons are typically the poorest members of society living far below the poverty line.

3.3.1.2 The Nigeria Millenium Development Goals, 2005 Report described poverty as being about human deprivation and lack or limited access to essential capabilities that could facilitate long and healthy life. The report also stated that poverty is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban Centres.

3.3.1.3 Older persons are severely affected by structural adjustment programmes; they are usually targeted during periods of retrenchment, have limited access to employment, credit, training and other services that would enable them increase their income.

3.3.2 OBJECTIVES:

- (a) ensure that the rights and needs of older persons are comprehensively addressed in Government poverty eradication programmes.
- (b) explore effective means of supporting family institution.
- (c) Promote access for older persons to employment and income generating Opportunities, credits, markets and assets.
- (d) Embark on enlightenment campaigns to change attitude and behavior that prevent older persons from accessing services available to other population groups.

3.3.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.3.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) Collate, analyse and disseminate information on the factors that Contribute to the poverty experienced by older persons
- (b) Review policies and programmes on poverty eradication to ensure That the specific needs of older persons are taken into account.
- (c) Involve older persons in the assessments, planning, implementation, Monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes.
- (d) Support innovative programmes to empower older persons particularly Women to increase their contribution to and benefit from development efforts to eradicate poverty.

- (e) Enhance international cooperation and support national efforts at eradicating poverty in keeping with internationally agreed goals in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support of older persons.

3.4 HEALTH

3.4.1 ISSUES:

3.4.1.1 Older persons capacity to earn a living and participate in family and Community life is governed, to a large extent, by their health status. Even though health is a basic human right, many older persons have limited access to essential health services. Many older persons are unable to afford basic treatment let alone, the medications needed to control chronic diseases that become more prevalent in older age such as diabetes, hypertension, prostate cancer, arthritis and other diseases. access to health services is not a benevolent act but is a basic human right for any human being, regardless of age.

3.4.2 OBJECTIVES:

3.4.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) provide a comprehensive health care for older persons that is promotive, Preventive, curative, rehabilitative with continuing care service.
- (b) ensure that older persons' access to appropriate health-care is legally Constituted and enforceable.
- (c) guarantee the delivery of health services that meet the specific needs of Older persons.
- (d) sensitize philanthropic and business organizations to support health care Needs of older persons in their communities.

(e) empower older persons to make choices that enable them to live satisfying
Lives and lead healthy life styles.

(f) ensure the type of recreational activities for older persons which will enhance
Inter-generational interaction and co-operation.

3.4.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.4.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) Review all national health policies and strategies to ensure they respond to
Specific needs of older persons
- (b) Involve older persons in the revision of health policies and strategies
- (c) Provide accessible recreational facilities in the rural and urban areas.
- (d) Encourage the training of geriatric doctors, nurses, and social workers to
Provide needed specialized services to older persons
- (e) Integrate geriatrics into the primary health care service.
- (f) Implement legislation to ensure that health workers do not discriminate
against older persons
- (g) Review health budget to ensure that adequate funding is devoted to the
Provision of services for older persons.
- (h) Provide subsidized health care services for older persons.
- (i) Involve older persons in the design, provision and monitoring of health services
- (j) Provide appropriate and continuous training on ageing issues for family and
Community health workers to enable them provide support to older persons,
and their families.
- (k) Provide access to free and adequate physical and mental health services for
older persons especially those with disability, who are unable to meet the cost

of the services.

- (l) Develop and implement a strategy for the provision of safe traditional medicine
- (m) Develop and implement a strategy for the management of chronic health conditions that become more prevalent in old age.
- (n) Develop and implement national education programmes that focus on healthy life-styles for all age groups to improve the health status of people as they advance in age.
- (o) Encourage the development of health insurance schemes that include older Persons.

3.5 FOOD AND NUTRITION

3.5.1 ISSUES:

- 3.5.1.1 Malnutrition is one of the factors that contributes to poor health of older Persons, hindering their active participation in different activities. Older Persons are more susceptible to food deficiencies as a result of physiological And physical changes.
- 3.5.1.2 Social isolation contributes to reduced food intake and increased risk of Malnutrition. This brings with it risks of increased mortality, and reduction in older persons functional ability for income generation thus making self care activities harder and more difficult.
- 3.5.1.3 Little is known about the food and nutritional needs of older persons in Nigeria. Most food and nutritional training curricula do not include older persons and nutritional assessments fails to include this age group.

3.5.2 **OBJECTIVES**

3.5.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure that older persons rights to adequate food and nutrition are Legally provided for and enforceable
- (b) ensure that older persons have access to adequate food and nutrition,
- (c) ensure that due attention is given to nutritional deficiencies and Associated diseases in the design and implementation of health Promotion and prevention programmes for older person,
- (d) ensure appropriate and adequate provision of accessible nutrition And food for older persons in hospital and other care settings,

3.5.3 **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

3.5.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) Review national food and nutrition policies (including those governing Emergency situations) to address the specific needs of older persons.
- (b) Involve older persons in the development of food and nutrition policies
- (c) Include issues related to the food and nutritional status, vulnerabilities and needs of older persons in national, local and household nutritional Surveys.
- (d) Provide subsidy to older persons for medically recommended foods, medication and related health services.
- (e) Provide free health and dental services for older persons to ensure early detection of malnutrition and improvement of mastication.
- (f) Implement national nutrition education programmes for age groups

to improve their nutritional status as they enter older years

- (g) Develop and review the pre- service and in –service training curricula of food and agricultural professionals to ensure that the needs of Older Persons are adequately addressed.
- (h) Pay particular attention to nutritional deficiencies and associated diseases in the design and implementation of health promotion and prevention programmes for Older Persons.
- (i) Ensure that land distribution policies do not discriminate against Older Persons.
- (j) Educate Older Persons, the general public, and care givers about specific nutritional needs of Older Persons, adequate intake of water, calories, protein, vitamins and minerals.
- (k) Review government agricultural and food security programmes to ensure that the needs of Older Persons are taken care of.
- (l) Conduct research to increase understanding of the nutritional needs of Older Persons in Nigeria.

3.6 HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.6.1 ISSUES

3.6.1.1 Housing and environment inclusive of factors such as accessibility affordability and safety, the financial burden of maintaining a home, and the important emotional and psychological security of a home are particularly important for Older Persons. It is recognized that good housing can promote good health and well-being.

3.6.1.2 Many Older Persons have limited access to decent shelter as a result of socio – economic changes and belief systems. The majority of Older Persons live in rural areas, where, in many cases, land ownership is governed by customary law. Property disputes affect Older Persons as family and community members strive to take control. This is particularly true for older women following the death of their spouses, especially if they do not have children.

3.6.1.3 In Nigeria, Old People’s Homes are not part of our culture but there are Older Persons abandoned without family or children. In that case, the existing Old People’s Homes should be strengthened.

3.6.1.4 Building designs often limit Older Person's access to services as well as reducing their access to political and civil representation.

Equally, public transport and communication systems need to be responsive to the needs of the Older Population group.

3.6.2 OBJECTIVES:

3.6.2.1 The Objectives are:

(a) ensure that Older Persons have access to safe, durable and affordable shelter.

(b) ensure that public infrastructure accommodates the needs of Older Persons, in particular, those with disabilities.

(c) ensure that policies and legislation governing land rights including security of tenure, in urban and rural areas do not discriminate against Older Persons, particularly women.

(d) ensure that Older Persons and families caring for older relatives are eligible for subsidized housing loans and other similar benefits.

(e) ensure that universal standards are observed in the provision of goods and services for Older Persons.

(f) improve the availability of accessible and affordable transportation for Older Persons.

3.6.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.6.3.1 Government shall:

(a) Review and update housing policies to ensure that they reflect the needs of Older Persons in both rural and urban areas.

(b) Provide adequate housing and suitable environment for Older Persons.

(c) Enact and implement legislation to protect the rights of Older Persons living in Old People's Homes (both Government and private) with due regard to issues of security, private space and privacy.

- (d) Enact and implement legislation to provide Older Persons and families caring for Older Persons subsidized housing facilities including low interest housing loans and other similar benefits.
- (e) Provide preferential allocation of ground floor accommodation for Older Persons in respect of high rise building.
- (f) Enact and implement legislation to protect the property rights of Older Persons particularly women.
- (g) Modify existing public building to ensure access for Older Persons by providing ramps, rails, and lifts.
- (h) Create consultative mechanisms at all levels of society, by including Older Persons in decision making process affecting their housing and living environment.
- (j) Enact legislation on priority for Older Persons in boarding and sitting in public transport.

3.7 FAMILY

3.7.1 ISSUES

3.7.1.1 The family remains one of the most important source of support for Older Persons. However family institution is changing and traditional patterns of care and support are no longer guaranteed. Living pattern are fundamentally changing as urbanization results in many Older Persons living alone in rural areas.

3.7.1.2 Economic pressures and changing social values have resulted in families being unable or unwilling to care for older relatives. Consequently, cases of abuse, physical, social, emotional and economic by family members are increasing.

3.7.1.3 The contributions that Older Persons make to the family are seldom acknowledged and programmes designed to support families fail to take into account the valuable role that Older Persons play. In communities affected by HIV/ AIDS, Older Persons are the primary caregivers of the sick and large numbers of orphaned grandchildren.

3.7.2 OBJECTIVES

3.7.2.1 The objectives are:

(a) ensure legislation to promote and strengthen the capacity and role of the family in its community based care of its Older members.

(b) ensure that legal instruments exist to protect the rights of Older Persons within the family and community.

(c) encourage the involvements, and contribution of Older Persons in family, community and state.

(d) ensure self –sufficiency, enhance self- esteem, and facilitate Older Person’s participation in the economic life of their families and communities.

3.7.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.7.3.1 Government shall:

(a) Review and revise family focused legislation to ensure that it is inclusive of the needs of Older Persons within the family.

(b) Identify, support and strengthen traditional support systems to enhance the ability of families and communities to care for older family members.

(c) Enact legislation pertaining to taxation that encourages the care and support of Older Persons within the family e.g. tax concessions for those supporting older relatives.

(d) Collect, analyze and disseminate information about the contributions that Older Persons make to their families and society.

(e) Involve Older Persons in all stages of the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

(f) Review and update policies and programmes relating to the family to ensure they make adequate provision for the specific requirement of Older Persons.

(g) Develop and strengthen rural economies to curb rural/urban drift which affects the support structure for Older Persons in rural areas.

(h) Design and implement services to meet the specific needs of Older Persons, in urban areas recognizing that family networks tend to be weaker in urban centres.

(i) Establish or expand programmes of intergenerational, social and cultural activities.

(j) Educate society to have positive attitudes towards Older Persons.

3.8 SOCIAL WELFARE

3.8.1 ISSUES

3.8.1.1 The family remains the main and most appropriate form of support for Older Persons, social welfare programmes have a vital role to play to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed. Many existing social welfare programmes are centralized thereby making them inaccessible to those Older Persons who have limited mobility or who are unable to afford the cost of transportation from their homes to centres where services are provided. Social security legislation exists, but in most cases it does not give specific consideration to the needs of Older Persons.

3.8.2 OBJECTIVES

3.8.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure the design, development, and implementation of practical, realistic and appropriate social welfare strategies that include the concern of Older Persons.
- (b) discourage the institutionalization of Older Persons and retain the cultural respect for them.
- (c) encourage the emphasis of community based support system such as kinship, and extended family; neighborhood and institutions in the community, such as Community Based Organization (CBOs), Non Governmental Organization (NGOs) Age- Based Association (ABA's) and Faith Based Organization (FBOs).

3.8.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.8.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) develop, review and implement strategies which emphasize traditional community support and care mechanisms for Older Persons.
- (b) develop and promote the participation of Older Persons Associations, Self –help and NGO initiatives in all social welfare strategies.
- (c) devise welfare systems that ensure that Older Persons are given priority when they seek social and other services including access to multi – purpose Day centres.
- (d) provide adequate and accessible recreational and leisure facilities both in urban and rural areas to avoid / reduce boredom, loneliness and depression.

- (e) decentralize health and social welfare services to ensure access by Older Persons.
- (f) design programmes and services to sustain the independence of Older Persons in rural areas.
- (g) facilitate and strengthen traditional rural and community support mechanisms.
- (h) increase quality of care and access to community – based long-term care of Older Persons living alone in order to extend their capacity for independent living as a alternative to hospitalization and nursing home placement.
- (i) enact legislation that will enable Older Person’s have access to welfare services that are sensitive to their needs.
- (j) recognize the contributions of Older Person’s as volunteers in community – based initiatives.

3.9 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME SECURITY

3.9.1 ISSUES

3.9.1.1 Older Persons are among the poorest in most societies and often do not have access to regular income. They are denied access to employment opportunities and are often victims of retrenchment and reorganizations. The ability to contribute to and benefit from formal social security programmes is generally limited to those in the formal sector and as a result, most people enter older age totally reliant on their ability to continue generating their own income.

3.9.1.2 The overall economy can benefit from the experience and skills of older workers to train younger and newer employees, thus facilitating the retention and productive fulfillment of older workers in the workforce.

Factors affecting older women in the labour market deserve special mention. These include family care obligations, lack of career development due to interrupted work history, etc. Gender balance is not achieved in the work place.

3.9.2 OBJECTIVES

3.9.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Older Persons in work – place.
- (b) ensure enactment of appropriate legislation for the establishment and implementation of formal and informal social security systems.
- (c) ensure employment opportunities for all Older Persons who want to work.
- (d) give special consideration to the needs of older women in giving credit facilities and providing income generating opportunities.

3.9.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.9.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) enact legislation that prevents discrimination on the basis of old age during recruitment, promotion and retrenchment processes.
- (b) introduce flexible retirement policies and appropriate strategies and opportunities to enable Older Persons to continue contributing to the workforce, as long as they are willing and able.
- (c) provide skill training for alternate employment for retrenched Older Persons.
- (d) reintegrate qualified indigent Older Persons with disability into the labour market through special security schemes.
- (e) provide public education on individual responsibility for social security issues so that people understand the need to plan for their old age.
- (f) put in place Old age structure that allow for contributions by all those in the formal and informal sectors, including part – time workers, rural, agricultural, domestic and migrant workers.
- (g) involve both younger and Older Person's in the design and implementation of strategies and polices relating to social security,
- (h) develop and implement strategies that extend the coverage of formal and informal social security systems, to Older Persons.

- (i) strengthen the governance of social security systems to include performance targets relating to set objectives including the processing of payments to ensure transparency and solvency.
- (j) provide support to informal social security programmes through government and non government supported training.
- (k) conduct pre-retirement programmes to enable Older Persons to develop the necessary coping skills that will prepare them for the emotional, psychological and socio-economic challenges of retirement.
- (l) promote a realistic portrait of older worker's skills and abilities by correcting damaging stereotypes about older workers.
- (m) increase participate in the labour market of the working age population and reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life.
- (n) promote new work arrangement and innovative work place practices aimed at sustaining working capacity and accommodating the needs of Older Persons by setting up employee assistance programmes.
- (o) encouraging older women's participation in the formal sector through appropriate legislation.
- (p) provide sustainable work related health –care services with emphasis on prevention, occupational health and safety.
- (q) provide access to technology, lifelong learning , continuing education, on – the – job training and vocational rehabilitation.
- (r) reintegrate indigent Older Persons into the labour market through special social security scheme.
- (s) ensure that older women have access to credit facilities and income – generating opportunities.

3.10 CRISES, EMERGENCIES AND EPIDEMICS

3.10.1.1 ISSUES

3.10.1.1 In emergency situations, such as periods of conflict, natural disasters, crises and other humanitarian emergencies and epidemics, Older Persons are especially

vulnerable, because they may be isolated from family and friends and less able to find food and shelter. Their rights and needs are often overlooked by those implementing aid programmes and the contributions that they can make are often ignored.

3.10.1.2 Emergency situations often result in rapid changes in social pattern and the status accorded Older Persons in stable situations is undermined. Older Persons could be called upon to assume primary care-giving roles. Government and humanitarian relief agencies should recognize that Older Persons can make a positive contribution in coping with emergencies in promoting rehabilitation and reconstruction.

3.10.1.3 HIV/AIDS

3.10.1.3.1 The impact of HIV/AIDS, debates and other epidemic on all sections of the society is immense, but the specific impact on Older Persons is seldom analyzed. In the case of HIV/AIDS, not only are Older Persons at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS but are the main providers of care for those affected by HIV/AIDS and for orphaned grandchildren.

3.10.1.4 OTHER CRISES AND EMERGENCIES

3.10.1.4.1 Other crises and emergencies that exert negative impact on Older Persons include impecuniosity and the inability to meet their financial needs occasioned by constant increase in inflationary trends. Various types of societal violence like armed robbery, local conflicts resulting in displacements, absence of jobs for the upcoming younger generation have negative consequences on Older Persons.

3.10.2 OBJECTIVES

3.10.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure that assistance reaches Older Persons in situations of conflict.
- (b) ensure that the needs of Older Persons in emergency situations are met.
- (c) ensure the protection of the rights and needs of Older Persons affected by HIV/AIDS diabetes and other epidemics, crises and emergencies.
- (d) ensure equal access by Older Persons to food , shelter , medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.
- (e) enhance the contribution of Older Persons to the establishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies.

3.10.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

3.10.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) promote national and international efforts to prevent and resolve issues of conflict , thereby establishing peace and security for the well- being of Older Persons.
- (b) recognize and utilize the potential contributions of Older Persons such as care of children, their knowledge of traditional coping mechanism and alternative health systems, conflict prevention and resolution strategies.
- (c) ensure that where communities are displaced, family tracing is undertaken to reunite Older Persons with family members.
- (d) provide support to Older Persons to meet their needs, such as food, water, shelter, clothing , health care and transportation.
- (e) ensure that older persons are involved in, and benefit from the design and implementation of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.
- (f) establish modalities that ensure that Older Persons who are former refugees receives their pension in respect of services rendered in the countries of asylum, and are to recover their property on return.
- (g) recognize the fact that HIV/AIDS and other epidemics affect Older Persons in multiple ways.
- (h) conduct and strengthen research to understand the nature and extent of the impact of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics on Older Persons.
- (i) develop and review policies relating to HIV/AIDS and other epidemics to ensure that they include issues affecting Older Persons.
- (j) strengthen community based care mechanism to ensure that Older Persons who are care givers of those affected by HIV/AIDS and other epidemics receive support.
- (k) strengthen community based care mechanisms to ensure that Older Persons whose children have died of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics receive support including psychosocial support and counseling.

(l) Assist Older Persons to re-establish economic self- sufficiency through rehabilitation programmes and occupational activities taking into account the special needs of older women.

(m) share and apply as appropriate lessons from best practices that have successfully utilized the contributions of Older Persons in the aftermath of emergencies and conflicts.

(n) include Older Persons in the provision of community relief committees by identifying and helping vulnerable Older Persons themselves.

3.11 AGEING AND MIGRATION

3.11.1 ISSUES

3.11.1.1 Movement of people from one location to another increased tremendously in recent times. Economic support, including remittances from children outside their immediate environment is a vital lifeline to Older Persons and through them to their communities and local economies.

3.11.1.2 Older migrants from rural to urban areas often face loss of social network and suffer from the lack of a supporting infrastructure in cities, which can lead to their marginalization, loneliness and exclusion; in particular, if they are ill or disabled.

3.11.1.3 The urban setting for the older migrants is often one of crowded housing, poverty, loss of economic autonomy and little physical and social care from family members who must earn their living outside their homes.

3.11.2 OBJECTIVES

3.11.2.1 The objectives are:

(a) ensure the integration of older migrants within their new communities.

(b) ensure that ageing migrants' workers' rights to employment and minimum working conditions are respected.

(c) create an enabling environment in the rural areas to minimize the migration of Older Persons to urban areas for self actualization.

3.11.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.11.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) review the legislation to ensure minimum working conditions that protect rights of older workers against hazardous work.
- (b) review legislation to ensure equal treatment of migrant workers.
- (c) sending countries should create a conducive environment to fully integrate returning migrant worker into the society, by providing basic necessities like housing and training programmes for employment.
- (d) encourage supportive social networks and design measures to assist older migrants to sustain economic and healthy security.
- (e) develop community-based measure to prevent or offset the negative consequences of urbanization, such as the establishment of recreation centers for Older Persons.
- (f) encourage housing design to promote intergenerational living which are culturally appropriate and meet individual desire.
- (g) develop policies and programmes that facilitate ,as appropriate and as consistent with national laws, the integration of older migrants into the social, cultural, political and economic life of countries of destination and encourage respect for those migrants.
- (h) remove linguistic and cultural barriers when providing public services to older migrants.

3.12 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

3.12.1 ISSUES

3.12.1 Poor access to education earlier in life means that high proportions of Older Persons are illiterate and unaware of their rights. Public education programmes often use language and images that are not accessible to Older Persons. Education and training programmes in some case have limitations that prevent the participation of Older Persons and thereby limit their access to new employment and other opportunities. As training and education programmes are developed, the skill and experience of Older Persons are often overlooked and their contributions are neither acknowledged nor encouraged.

3.12.1.2 Myth and misconceptions are some causes of many of society's negative attitudes towards ageing and Older Persons. Issues relating to Older Persons are absent from education and training curricula- from primary school to tertiary and professional education.

3.12.1.3 Education is a crucial basis for active and fulfilled life. Older Persons experiencing technological change without education or training can end up alienated and isolated. Education, training and retraining are used to bring persons together and thereby contribute to the reduction of marginalization, loneliness and segregation between ages.

3.12.1.4 Greater emphasis on access to knowledge, education and training opportunities is needed for Older Persons in the workforce. These persons often experience more difficulties adapting to technological and organizational changes than younger workers, in particular when considering the increasingly widespread use of information technologies.

3.12.2 OBJECTIVES

- (a) ensure that Older Persons have access to continuous education and training.
- (b) develop and strengthen strategies that encourage Older Persons participation as educators and trainers.
- (c) increase the understanding and awareness of ageing issues through education and training.
- (d) ensure equality of opportunity throughout life with respect to continuing education, training and retraining as well as vocational guidance and placement.
- (e) ensure the full utilization of the potential and expertise of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.

3.12.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.12.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) strengthen and extend adult education programmes to ensure that they are inclusive of the needs of Older Persons.
- (b) ensure that public education campaigns are culturally sensitive and are conducted in local languages that take account of literacy levels among Older Persons.

- (c) design and implement vocational training programmes that encourage the participation of Older Persons including Older Persons with disability.
- (d) encourage Older Persons to offer their skills as volunteers and to utilize their social, cultural and educational knowledge especially in information technology.
- (e) raise the awareness of employers and workers organization of the value of retaining older workers, particularly women.
- (f) encourage and promote literacy, numeracy and technological skills training for Older Persons and the ageing workforce including special literacy and computer training for Older Persons with disabilities.
- (g) implement policies that promote access to training and retraining for older workers and encourage them to continue to use their acquired knowledge and skill after retirement.
- (h) enable Older Persons to act as mentors, mediators and advisers.
- (i) the curricular on adult education should be expended to consider Older Persons abilities, capabilities and mental alertness.
- (h) gerontological studies should be introduced at all relevant levels of education.

3.13 GENDER

3.13.1 ISSUES

3.13.1.1 The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action have not adequately brought about the desired change in the status of women. Gender relations shape the entire life cycle from birth to old age, influencing access to resources and opportunity and shaping life choices at every stage.

Ageing affects women and men differently, both physiologically and socially. For example women's lack of property means that widowhood or the dissolution of marriage often brings with it a loss of home and property.

3.13.1.2 Women experience particular vulnerabilities that derive from women's lifelong disadvantages due to negative stereotype, patriarchy and discrimination. The gender dimension of ageing must therefore be a prominent feature of all agenda for policy action.

3.13.1.3 The impact of gender differences and inequalities in education and employment opportunities increase through every stage of an individual's life reaching a peak in old age. As a result, older women are more likely to be poor, lonely and abandoned. Good health, economic security, adequate housing etc are fundamental to ageing with dignity. For instance, men and women suffer from health problems as they age but women's lack access to adequate care is sharpened by their levels of poverty. Any policy to address these issues effectively, must be informed by an understanding that women and men experience old age very differently.

3.13.2 OBJECTIVES

3.13.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) ensure the mainstreaming of gender into all policies relating to ageing.
- (b) ensure equal representation of women and men in decision making processes affecting Older Persons.
- (c) remove stereotypes that negatively affect older women.
- (d) ensure that older women have equal opportunity and access to socio-economic services.
- (e) address the negative issues affecting widows and childless older women.

3.13.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.13.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) mainstream gender issues into all ageing policies, programmes and activities at the inception, planning , implementation and evaluation levels.
- (b) research and disseminate information on differential ageing in women and men.
- (c) review national gender policies and programmes to include the specific concern of Older Persons.
- (d) enact legislation to ensure that older women /widow can access micro- credit and have equal access to land control, farming and other income generating activities.

- (e) enact legislation to protect older widows against discrimination in terms of burial rites, inheritance other unfavourable and cultural practices affecting them.
- (f) sensitize the general populace to remove stereotype and discriminatory attitudes and behavior against older women.
- (g) develop age and gender polices , strategies and programmers to ensure equal access to social and economic amenities.
- (h) sensitize communities to enhance respect for older women `s rights .
- (i) ensure that the gender dimension of ageing is a prominent feature of all agenda in National policies and programmes.
- (j) fully integrate older women into the community to ensure that they continue to live productive lives.
- (k) encourage older women in their supportive roles as caregivers, counselors, mentors, decision maker and peace builders.

3.14 CULTURE, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATON

3.14.1 ISSUES

3.14.1.1 Culture is the way of life of a people. Older Persons as custodians of our culture help to pass on our esteemed values, norms and mores from one generation to another thus preserving our culture, particularly in the face of urbanization and foreign influence. Much of our cultural values are fast disappearing and there is no concerted effort to tap the custodian of these values. Reducing vulnerability and promoting participation is not so much about creating special services for Older Persons, but rather, to ensure that they have equal access to mainstream services along with other vulnerable groups.

3.14.2 OBJECTIVES

3.14.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) encourage the preservation of our positive cultural values
- (b) ensure the documentation of our historical post.
- (c) acknowledge the contributions Older Persons make to family and society.

- (d) tackle ageism by educating, building confidence and raising awareness of Older persons.
- (e) ensure the participation and social integration of Older Persons in the society irrespective of gender, culture or ethnicity.
- (f) encourage community – based support programmes for Older Persons and deemphasize Old Peoples’ Homes .
- (g) promote Older People’s rights to participate in decision – making.
- (h) ensure alleviation of isolation and marginalization of Older Persons in rural areas.

3.14.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.14.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) establish day care centres and old people’s club to provide recreational opportunities, religious and income generating activities for Older Persons.
- (b) include Older Persons in the documentation of our historical and cultural post.
- (c) strengthen the involvement of Older Persons as role models and agents of moral reawakening.
- (d) involve Older Persons as consultants in specialized fields and community services.
- (e) encourage volunteerism amongst Older Persons in strategy designs in community affairs.
- (f) create opportunity for Older Persons to share their wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise with the younger generations.
- (g) Take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels;
- (h) Encourage, the establishment of organizations of older persons at all levels, to represent older persons in decision-making.
- (i) Take measures to enable the full and equal participation of older

persons, in particular older women, at all levels.

3.15 **AGEING AND DISABILITIES**

3.15.1 **ISSUES**

3.15.1.1 The prevalence of impairment and disability increases drastically with the onset of old age. It follows that as the life expectancy of the Nigerian population increases, so too will the prevalence of disability among older persons in our society. Older women with disabilities in general. Unlike their male counterparts suffer double jeopardy as they experience a lot of set backs in all spheres of life

3.15.1.2 The effect of impairment and disability are often exacerbated By negative stereotypes about persons with disabilities. This may result in lower expectations of their abilities and in social policies that do not allow them to reach their full potentials.

3.15.1.3 Enabling interventions and environment supportive of all older Persons are essential to promote independence and empower older persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of society. The ageing of persons with cognitive disabilities is a factor that should be considered in planning and decision making processes.

3.15.1.4 **DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE OF DISABILITY IN THE OLDER POPULATION (NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION (NPC) 1991)**

(a) Disability increases with age, e.g. the age specific disability rate at

- ages 85 years is about three times the rate for ages 60-64 years
- (b) Rate of disability is higher among older males (55%) than females.
 - (c) Blindness is the most common type of disability among older Persons, which accounts for more than four in ten of all disabilities Followed by deafness, crippling and dumbness respectively. Experience has shown that arthritis, hypertension and stroke are Also in the increase.
 - (d) Majority of older persons with disability are engaged in Agriculture (72.63%).
 - (e) The percentage of income recipients (12%) among persons with Disability is almost twice of that among older persons without Disability.
 - (f) Illiteracy rate is highest among blind older persons (81.4%) and Lowest among the deaf and dumb(77.7%).
 - (g) The crude disability rate for the older population is 12.34 for every per 1000 Older persons.
 - (h) From a total of 4,598,114 older persons in Nigeria, 56,768 had Some form of disability.
 - (i) About three quarters of older persons with disabilities live in rural areas.

3.15.2 **OBJECTIVES**

3.15.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) maintain maximum functional capacity throughout the life course

and promotion of the full participation of older persons with disabilities.

- (b) reduce discrimination against persons with disabilities based on archaic beliefs and customs.
- (c) give adequate publicity on issues affecting persons with disabilities
- (d) Provide information about institutions which can support older Persons with disabilities.
- (e) ensure that all older persons with disabilities shall have full access to rehabilitation, therapeutic aids and orthopaedic technical services within their communities as a part of community based rehabilitation programme.
- (f) introduce programmes of action to make physical environment accessible to older persons with disabilities.
- (g) develop standards, guidelines and enact legislation to ensure accessibility to housing, buildings, public transport services.
- (h) make information available in formats that can be used and Understood by older persons with hearing, visual and other communication impairments.
- (i) provide vocational guidance and information about different occupations to make informed decision when choosing an occupation according to their interests and disabilities.

3.15.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.15.3.1 Government shall:

- (a) Ensure that the agenda of national policy and programme coordinating agencies dealing with disabilities include attention to issues concerning older persons with disabilities;
- (b) Develop, as appropriate, gender and age-sensitive national and local policies, legislation, plans and programmes for the treatment and prevention of disabilities, taking health, environmental and social factors into account;
- (c) Provide physical and mental rehabilitation services for older persons with disabilities;
- (d) Develop community based programmes to provide education on causes of disabilities and information on how to prevent or manage them throughout the life course;
- (e) Create age-friendly standards and environments to prevent the onset or worsening of disabilities;
- (f) Encourage the development of housing options for older persons with disabilities that reduce barriers to encourage independence and, where possible, make public spaces, transportation and other services, as well as commercial premises and services used by the general public accessible to them;
- (g) Enact legislation to ensure compliance with the above
- (h) Encourage the provision of rehabilitation and appropriate care and assistive technologies such as prosthesis, orthoses and technical aids for older persons with disabilities to fulfill their need for services, support and full integration into society;

- (i) Promote, in accordance with applicable international law, including International agreements acceded to, the accessibility for all, without discrimination, including the most vulnerable sectors of the population, to pharmaceuticals or medical technologies, as well as their affordability for all, including disadvantaged groups;
- (j) Encourage and facilitate the establishment of self-help organization of older persons with disabilities and their caregivers;
- (k) Encourage employer receptivity to older persons with disabilities who remain productive and capable of paid or volunteer work.
- (l) Address the issue of the portrayal of older persons with disabilities as objects of pity and public sympathy.
- (m) Television stations shall provide sign language, inset or sub-titles in at least one major newscast programme each day and in all special programmes of national significance for the benefit of older persons with disabilities. Other media shall do the same.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.1.1 Government recognizes the need for strategic partnership involving all stakeholders at all levels. Therefore, this policy requires an effective framework for ensuring result-oriented implementation while giving due recognition to the collaborative role which various institutions and agencies must play. Consequently, the implementation of this policy will involve the participation of all tiers of Government, Organized Private Sector, International Development Institutions, Non – Governmental Organizations, communities, family networks, media, and the older persons themselves.

4.2 STAKEHOLDERS.

4.2.1 Institutions, Organizations, Agencies, Associations, Ministries, Ministerial Departments/Agencies whose mandate have a bearing on the well – being of older persons constitute stakeholders

for the implementation of this policy.

4.3 **TARGET GROUP**

4.3.1 In accordance with the definition of older persons in chapter above, the target group for this policy shall be:

- (a) Older persons adjudged to be in need of the services outlined in the policy.
- (b) Older persons with Disabilities
- (c) Rural and urban older persons
- (d) Young Old (60-74years)
- (e) Aged (75-79years)
- (f) Oldest of the old (80 years and above), and,
- (g) Association of older persons

4.3.2 The system of implementing the policy and programmes shall consist of the following:

- (a) The National Advisory Council on Ageing
- (b) State Advisory Committee on Ageing
- (c) Local Government Advisory Committee on Ageing
- (d) Standing Sub-committees of the National Advisory Council.

4.3.3 To aid the implementation of this policy, an advisory Council on Ageing will be established at the National level while Advisory committees will be established at the state and Local Government levels. The Secretariat of the council/

Committee will be housed at the co-ordinating ministries
Agency at the national and state levels.

4.3.4 The Membership of the Council will be drawn from:

1. Chairman (To be appointed by the President on the advice of Honourable Minister responsible for social welfare).
2. Federal Ministry of Health,
3. Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA),
4. Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC),
5. Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, (NSITF)
6. National Population Commission,
7. Federal Ministry of Finance,
8. National Planning Commission,
9. Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour & Productivity,
10. Federal Ministry of Education,
- 11-12 Two Representative of Associations of older persons,
13. Nigeria Society of the welfare of the Retired and Older persons (NISREP),
14. Federal Ministry of Agric & Rural Dev,
15. Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs,
16. Christian Association of Nigeria,
17. Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Dev,
- 18-23 State Governments (one per geo-political zone),
24. Federal Ministry of Justice

25. Federal Ministry of Information and Communication
26. National Action Committee on Aids (NACA)
27. National Pension Commission
28. Legal Aids Council
29. Central Bank of Nigeria
30. Federal Ministry of Interior
31. National Council of women Society
32. Federal Ministry of Works and Transport
33. Human Rights Commission
34. National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other related matters (NAPTIP)
35. One other person to be appointed by the President on the Advice of the Honourable Minister responsible for social welfare.

4.3.5 Appointees must have the appropriate qualifications.

4.3.5.1 The National Advisory Council on Ageing will have the statutory function of advising the Honourable Minister on measures and programmes for the well-being of older persons and in particular, of proposing to the Federal Government for approval, Draft National Implementation Plans for the care and well-being of older persons and of co-ordinating on behalf of the Ministry, the implementation, by relevant sectoral ministries and other agencies, of the approved National Implementation Plan.

4.3.5.2 State Advisory Committee on Ageing will be established in the office of the Honourable Commissioner responsible for Social welfare and will be made up of State Line Ministers, State Representatives of Organisations and Agencies listed above. At their own levels, each State Government will formulate its own strategies and institutional framework to ensure its effective participation in the national drive to achieve the objectives and goals of this policy. Similarly each local Government will establish in the office of the Supervisory Councilor responsible for social welfare an advisory committee on ageing committee which will plan, organize and coordinate its activities on this matter, including its participation in activities organized by the state and Federal Govt.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- 5.1 Financial constraints pose obvious problems to the planning and Implementation of programmes by either the government or the Voluntary organizations. There is therefore a need for the mobilization of all available resources for effective development and Implementation of all programmes for older persons.
- 5.2 In order to develop and promote programmes and activities for older persons, the Federal, State and Local Governments should allocate adequate funds from their annual budget for the care of older persons. In this regard, it is strongly recommended and indeed, expected, that all tiers of government, Federal, state and Local, shall allocate annually to programmes designed and implemented specifically for the wellbeing of the older persons not less than three percent (3%) of their budget. The three tiers of government also should conduct and coordinate fund raising activities at their various levels for older persons.
- 5.3 The implementation of this policy will have the following resource

Implications.

- (a) Availability of technical skills and appropriate human resource development.
- (b) Capacity building to improve the knowledge and skills, of operators
In this sector is very important.
- (c) Financial resources need to be allocated specifically to the sustenance of this policy.
- (d) Resource mobilization needs to be considered by all stakeholders with effective co-ordination mechanisms.

5.4 **Stakeholders**

5.4.1 The following Stakeholders will be involved in resource mobilization,

(a) **Government**

Leadership on the development of the policy as well as specific service.

(b) **International Community**

Provision of financial and technical support as well as capacity building and networking, to complement national and regional efforts.

(c) **Organised Private Sector**

Revision of corporate policies that discriminate against older People in employment of older people, pension issues, pre-retirement training, contribution to pension schemes and contribution to pension schemes and contribution to community prog-

rammes targeting older persons.

(d) **Non-Governmental Organizations**

Integration of issues relating to older persons and the allocation of resources to develop older persons specific programme, identification of felt needs and encouragement of volunteerism.

(e) **Philanthropists/Individuals**

Contributions to the funding and other support for older persons.

(f) **Faith-Based Organisations**

Provision of spiritual services to older people, education on ageing

(g) **General Public**

Provision of support to older persons within the family and community.

(h) **The Media**

Sensitization of public on issues relating to ageing and older persons

5.5 There should be political will on the part of the three tiers of government to mobilize funds and other resources for the care and welfare of older persons. Government should establish a National Trust Fund on Ageing to support organizations working with and for older persons. Relevant Government agencies and non-governmental organizations will be encouraged to mobilize and access resources from both domestic and international sources for the implementation of programmes and activities likely to advance the goals of this policy.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 RESEARCH AND PLANNING

6.1 ISSUES

6.1.1 To have a firm for assessing the situation and wellbeing of older Persons periodically and for devising plans and relevant programmes for the maximum benefit on a continuous basis, there is the need to conduct regular periodic surveys, systematic studies, comprehensive and specialized research on their situations and aspects of ageing.

6.1.2 Research shall therefore be undertaken into various areas of Ageing by government agencies research institutes for Gerontological studies and institutions of Higher Learning. All these bodies should work together to achieve the goal of developing instruments for improving the quality of life of older persons in Nigeria.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

6.2.1 The objectives are:

- (a) to bring to the fore appropriate attention to the various factors

Positively contributing and negatively affecting the wellbeing of older persons.

(b) to highlight the age and gender sensitive data and analysis which will provide essential materials for effective planning and evaluation

(c) to use research findings to facilitate the sustenance of the policy.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

6.3.1 Government shall:

(a) Ensure the composition of a network of researchers and research Institutes on Ageing to coordinate and share data/findings from various studies, and surveys conducted.

(b) Facilitate the dissemination of data/findings to relevant organizations and institutions concerned with issues of ageing.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 7.1 Government has the responsibility to monitor and evaluate periodically the progress made and the impact registered in the implementation of this policy, nationwide, as it may deem fit in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- 7.2 Other agencies and stakeholders participating in the implementation of this policy as spelt out in Chapter Four have various responsibilities. This includes monitoring, at their level both the implementation process and the impact of the policy as a basis for steering their own programmes and activities and for meaningful inputs into the policy, evaluation and review process at the national level. In this regard, all stakeholders who will be implementing this policy shall be required to maintain statistical and other records of their programmes and activities. This they can make necessary inputs in the periodic assessments of their operations, impact and any problems or emerging challenges they may face.

- 7.3 Systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Policy on Ageing is essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons, thus ensuring that the goals and objectives of the policy are achieved.
- 7.4 The National Focal Point on Ageing, i.e. The Federal Ministry or National Agency responsible for Social welfare shall coordinate the monitoring and evaluation process at the national level. Similarly, the state focal point on Ageing or the state Ministry or Agency responsible for care of older persons will coordinate the Monitoring and evaluation process at the states and Local Government levels.

CHAPTER EIGHT

8.0 COORDINATION OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Government recognizes that hitherto, programmes on ageing in Nigeria have failed to make the desired impact because of the lack of proper coordination and duplication of efforts by various Agencies. Consequently, appropriate measures will be introduced to ensure more effective and continuous coordination of the policy and programmes for the protection and welfare of older persons, especially programme priorities, programme planning and the basic strategies of programme implementation.

8.2 COORDINATING AGENCY/FOCAL POINT

8.2.1 The Federal Ministry or the Federal Government Agency responsible for Social Welfare shall be the focal point on all issues pertaining to Ageing in Nigeria. It shall also have the primary responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this National policy on Ageing, in collaboration with the National Advisory Council on Ageing.

8.3 MACHINERY FOR CO-ORDINATION OF POLICIES AND

PROGRAMMES

- 8.3.1 Government recognizes that the existing arrangements for coordinating policies and programmes for older persons are inadequate in many ways, and therefore need to be strengthened at the State and Local government levels. The State Ministry or Agency responsible for the care of older persons shall be responsible for coordinating policies and programmes at the state, Local Government and Community levels.
- 8.3.2 The National, state and Local Government Advisory Council/committees on Ageing will act in an advisory capacity to provide support to the coordinating agencies both at the Federal, state and Local Government levels respectively.
- 8.3.3 The National Council responsible for Social Development shall be the highest policy making body on all issues pertaining to older persons in Nigeria.

8.4 IMPLEMENTATION

- 8.4.1 In coordinating the implementation of this policy, the Federal Government shall avoid measures likely to discourage or stifle Local initiatives or local variations in economic, institutional and cultural situations of States and Local Government as well as other stakeholders.
- 8.4.2 As the Focal Point on Ageing in Nigeria, the primary action of the Federal Ministry or Agency responsible for Social Welfare will be to facilitate and promote the National Policy on Ageing, it shall

also initiate enabling legislation including: designing guidelines for policy development and implementation; advocating means of mainstreaming ageing issues into development agenda, engaging in dialogue with civil societies and the private sector, as well as information exchange.

8.5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONALISING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING

8.5.1 The Implementation and continued review of the National Policy

On Ageing would bring it to currency of the various programmes in the scope of the policy and ensure achievement of the goal of full involvement of older persons in national Development. The Success of that endeavour is the joint responsibility of the three tiers of Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the older persons themselves.

8.5.2 The responsibility of Government to older persons remains the Guarantee of improvement in their quality of life, total integration in the society, adequate income security through the execution of programmes and projects that would allow life long individuals and collective long term development, that would provide an environment which would allow older persons to discharge their responsibility to the Nigerian state.

8.5.3 The implementation of the policy on Ageing will require sustained action at all levels in order to respond to the demographic

changes ahead and to mobilize the skills and energies of older persons. In addition, there is a critical and continuing need for international assistance to help in the area of funding, technical assistance, capacity building and networking.

8.5.4 The implementation of the National Policy on Ageing also requires a holistic approach to the development of older persons that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility, cooperation and full respect for the various religious, ethnical values and cultural backgrounds of our older persons.

8.6 **NATIONAL ACTION/RESPONSE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

8.6.1 In carrying out their primary responsibilities for implementing this National Policy, a necessary first step by the three tiers of Government in the successful implementation of the plan is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into all the national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies of its various implementing agencies.

8.6.2 Programme innovation, mobilization of financial resources and the development of necessary human resources will be undertaken simultaneously. Accordingly, progress in the implementation of the policy will depend on effective partnership between government, civil societies, and the private sector as well as an enabling environment based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance.

8.6.3 The role of Non-Governmental Organizations is important in the Implementation of the policy. other crucial elements of implementation include; effective organization of older persons; educational training and research activities on ageing, national data collection and analysis, such as the compilation of gender and age-specific information for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation.

CHAPTER NINE

9.0 POLICY REVIEW

The National Agency responsible for Social Welfare in collaboration with its social partner shall review this policy every ten (10) years. Other tiers of government are also expected to adjust their programmes/activities within the same time frame and condition.

References:

1. Paragraph 2.2.2 - 'The Elderly' Nigeria Population Census,
1991 Analysis. P.7
2. Paragraph 2.4.1 - UN International Plan of Action on Ageing,
2002. P.3