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THEME: “Workshop on “Evidence-based Ageing-related Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Presentation BY
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Ladies and Gentlemen participating in this Workshop

I would like to convey greetings from the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development of the African Union Commission, **H. E. Amira Elfadil Mohamed Elfadil**

1. Introduction:

This Workshop, themed, “**Workshop on “Evidence-based Ageing-related Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa”**”, is important for both the AU and UN. For the AU to interact with the citizens of Africa in order to exchange information and learn from each other on ageing in Africa and internationally.

2. AU Protocol on Older Persons

To realize this long term goal, the Heads of State and Government, during their January 2016 Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa. The Protocol is expected to assist Member States of the African Union to develop legal instruments that will ensure the rights and welfare of older persons in Africa.

So far, it has been ratified by three Member States (Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Benin and the Republic of Malawi) and signed by seventeen (18). The following countries have signed, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea- Conakry, Kingdom of Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leon, Togo, and Zambia.

This Protocol has to be Signed and Ratified by a minimum of fifteen (15) AU Member States for it to come into force.

Prospects brought by the adoption and implementation of the Protocol includes older persons having access to universal social protection, employment and skills development. Further older persons will have protection against harmful cultural practices among others.

3. AU Policy on Ageing

POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING (2002) is being reviewed and updated to enable Member States to strengthen their policy instruments to address challenges faced by our ageing population. The policy instrument is a framework to assist and guide Member States in developing programming and budgeting for older persons. It also guides Member States with the development of new policy instruments and the reviewing and updating of existing ones to be in line with the current developments in the continent.

Conclusion: As mentioned earlier, we need partnership and support in the reviewing of the 2002 Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing as well as the signing and ratification of the Protocol on Older Persons by at least fifteen (15) Member States. The ratification of the Protocol will ensure that the rights and welfare of older persons in Africa are included in the development of Africa as we march towards 2063.

In the same vein I would like to appeal to you to include in your advocacy, the signing and ratification of the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa**. The protocol was adopted in 2018. Remember that persons with disabilities grow old and older persons develop impairments that affect them in many ways including their mobility.

Another Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security is under development and I hope it will be ready for adoption by the Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2022.

Thank you