

14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Guiding questions for the focus area on “accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)”

National legal and policy framework

- 1. What are the national legal provisions and policy frameworks that recognize older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)? This could include, but is not limited to:**
 - a) the right of older persons to adequate housing, including land, property and inheritance.**
 - b) the right of older persons to access and enjoy, on an equal basis with others, the physical environment, transportation, information and communications (including ICTs), and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas (e.g. buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, housing, green spaces, medical facilities and workplaces; information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services).**
 - c) policies/programmes that enable older persons to live independently and to be included in their communities as they age.**

The Colombian State approved in its constitutional and legal framework the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons through the Law 2055 of 2020. Therefore, the Colombian State assumed the right to housing, the right to autonomy, the right to accessibility and personal mobility, the right to property, the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information, and the right to independence as some of the goals and objectives that seek to guarantee the rights promoted in the Convention.

- 2. What are the challenges and barriers faced by older persons for the realization of their right to accessibility, infrastructure use and habitat (transport, housing and access) at the national and international levels?**

In order to guarantee the conditions for healthy aging and the experience of a dignified, autonomous and independent old age under conditions of equality, equity and non-discrimination, it is important to develop actions that allow the elderly to have access to economic security, decent work, entrepreneurship, decent housing, food and nutritional security, comprehensive health care, and care services, in coordination with actions in the area of care.

Data and research

- 3. What data, statistics and research are available at the national level regarding older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (public transport, housing and access)?**

Colombia conducted the population and housing census in 2018 to count and characterize the people residing in Colombia, as well as households in the national territory. Through the census, the country obtains first-hand data on the number of inhabitants, their distribution in the territory and their living conditions. In addition, Colombia has a series of publications for 7 population issues, called Postcensal Studies, which includes the analysis and comparative assessment of the phases of the demographic transition at the departmental level based on data from the 2018 National Population and Housing Census and the impact that demographic transition processes may have on the 2030 development agenda.

4. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that hinder older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

Colombia safeguards the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the elderly set forth in the Convention, without discrimination of any kind, through the action plan of the Colombian Policy on Human Aging and Old Age, which specifies the competencies of the Nation, Departments, Districts and Municipalities, as well as the quantification and the short-, medium- and long-term temporal scope of the goals.

The Ministry of Equality and Equity was established through the Law 2281 of 2023 to ensure that all populations in the country, including old persons, are treated as equals, without exclusion. This Ministry has the steering role of the National Public Policy on Aging and Old Age 2022-2031, promoting the wellbeing and protection of old persons and recognizing their rights and social inclusion in conditions of equality and equity.

Remedies and Redress

5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to submit complaints and seek redress for denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

Colombia adopted the National Public Policy on Aging and Old Age 2022-2031 through the Decree 681 of 2022. The oversight and control agencies, within the framework of their competencies, will accompany the follow-up of the comprehensive management of the National Policy on Aging and Old Age, and the monitoring of the fulfillment of the goals established by the entities executing the Policy in the National Action Plan and the territorial action plans. Additionally, the organizations of and for the elderly contribute to the management of the Policy by developing processes of oversight, training, research and proactive actions for the appropriation and achievement of the proposed objectives. Finally, academia and scientific organizations are called upon to contribute to the management of the Policy, accompanying the monitoring of its implementation, strengthening research and promoting healthy aging.