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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in achieving
poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and
decent work for all**

Statement submitted by Association Camerounaise pour la Prise en charge des Personnes Agées, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.5/2013/L.2](#).



Follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) by civil society organizations in Cameroon

The world elderly population is growing faster than ever; by 2050, according to United Nations statistical projections, it will have increased from 600 million in 2000 to more than 2 billion. To meet that challenge, the United Nations in 2002 convened the second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain, where the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted. That plan follows on from the first one, adopted 10 years earlier in Vienna, Austria.

Our goal is to make the Plan known to everyone in Cameroon, and in particular older persons and CSOs, to achieve buy-in and to attain our goal, namely to follow up and evaluate the implementation of its three priority thrusts in the light of the targets listed above. In that way, the elderly will be able to enjoy their rights, to rise out of poverty, to integrate into society and to obtain decent employment.

The United Nations calls for MIPAA implementation to be evaluated every five years. Hence, the first evaluation took place in 2007. To that end, after several consultations with older people in rural and urban areas on ways of achieving the goal, we organized a workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in December 2007, to validate the follow-up and evaluation of MIPAA implementation by CSOs. The report that emerged from the workshop shows that on the whole, much remains to be done for older people here in Cameroon (with respect to rights and health... although some progress was noted in terms of income-generating activities and common initiative groups or advocacy groups formed by senior citizens.)

The second evaluation (Madrid+10) took place in 2012. A number of informal consultations were held with older people themselves, first in rural (bottom-up) areas, such as Lekoua village, then in cities, such as Yaoundé. The upshot of these consultations was that a second evaluation workshop was organized; its report calls for progress on the three priority thrusts of the Plan. While more progress was evident than at the time of Madrid+5, a great deal still remains to be done for the well-being of seniors.

As MIPAA is an instrument for the advocacy and protection of seniors' rights, its follow-up and evaluation also affords them a chance at empowerment and capacity-building, to assert and protect their rights. Our NGO is accredited to the United Nations' Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG). We (the Executive Chairperson) took part in two OEWG sessions, in 2011 and 2012, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which we presented statements regarding Cameroon's progress on ageing and seniors' rights. We dealt with the impacts upon our return to Cameroon. One such impact emerged when marking the 23rd International Day of Older Persons in 2013, at the workshop we organized on 10 October 2013 on the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. At that workshop, older persons expressed the wish to see their rights strengthened in the new Convention, in terms of poverty reduction, social security, health coverage, extension of the retirement age, access to housing and decent work, and the plight of elderly people who have to support their grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end in 2015. Older people want to see the above-mentioned benefits taken into account in the post-2015 programme.

We gave a presentation on elder abuse at the workshop organized by the International Federation on Ageing and the Friends of IFA, held on 27 and 28 May 2013 at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

In our studies, we noted that older women outnumber older men. They do not experience age-related problems in the same way, being subject to gender discrimination as well.

Our specific recommendations:

- Do a yearly mini-evaluation of MIPAA, of course with the five-year United Nations evaluation.
- Place greater emphasis on the problem of older women.
- Analyse the effectiveness of the new UN Convention in upholding the rights and dignity of older persons, inasmuch as, if their rights and dignity are respected, they can live with dignity and independence, as stakeholders of development integrated into society.
- Make the post-2015 development programme more favourable to seniors than the MDGs.

May we soon see a society where the growing numbers of older people represent an opportunity, where they truly enjoy all their rights and participate fully in development: a society for all ages.
