1. ***Please describe the impact of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of older persons. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.***

Basically, the older people are presumed to enjoy all the rights that are recognized by the law without any form of discrimination. These rights include right to life, rights to privacy, right to education, right to own or inherit property, right to work, right to housing, right to private life, etc. However, there are some of the rights that are very important to the status of the older people that will now be considered.

Climate change is expected to have adverse effects on natural and human systems although the risk and harm resulting from climate change will not be evenly distributed. Certain groups in society will be affected more than others. These groups will tend to be already socially deprived due to poor health, age, quality of housing and mobility. Older people in particular are a vulnerable group that may be physically, financially and emotionally less resilient to deal with a changing climate (Haq et al., 2008). They may be unaware of climate change risks and often lack the social support network to enable them to adapt to change (SNIFFER, 2009). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2007 Assessment Report confirmed that the impacts of climate change would vary depending on gender, age and class.

From different international and national instruments, the term human rights of older persons include the following:

* right to good health or healthcare;
* the rights to adequate social security, assistance, and protection;
* right to freedom from discrimination based on age or any other status, in all aspects of life including employment and access to housing, health care, and social services;
* right to protection from neglect and all types of physical or mental abuse.
* rights to be treated with dignity
* right to full and effective participate in decision-making concerning their well-being and full and active participation in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life of society.

1. Climate Change and the right to good health or healthcare;

Older people are the most likely to suffer health problems during **heat waves** arising from a changing climate. The World Health Organization estimates that heat exposure due to climate change is likely to cause an additional 38,000 deaths among older people for the year 2030. Preexisting health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, to which older people are at greater risk, exacerbate susceptibility. In addition, older people with more risk factors for heat-related illness are less likely to access support, to use community centres or to take protective action on their own because their adaptive capacity is reduced.

A higher proportion of severe forms of malaria has been reported to be associated with older individuals without immunity, compared with younger adults. In addition, the changing climate and environment is altering infectious disease patterns and increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, obesity, sensory-organ disease and dementia. 80 per cent of global deaths due to NCDs occur in low and middle-income countries and older people are particularly at risk. This is a chronic health security issue, which will be further exacerbated by the changing climate. Older people also tend to experience greater impacts from **flood** events arising from climate change and a greater incidence of flood-related disease and higher rates of mortality. Water contamination due to flooding is more likely to have greater impact on older people due to their less responsive immune systems. Flooding may also restrict an individual’s especially the old, access to medicine, or make it difficult to obtain appropriate medical attention in an emergency.

b. Climate change and the rights to freedom from discrimination based on age or any other status, in all aspects of life including ***employment*** and access to housing, health care, and social services;

Food security is potentially affected by climate change, including food access, utilization, and price stability. The proportion of older farmers is significant and growing. Globally, 27.5 per cent of agricultural smallholders are aged over 55.30 In Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America, agriculture continues to be the most important source of livelihood for the vast majority of economically active older people, and particularly so for older women. Extreme weather and gradual changes in climate are already affecting the quantity, quality and seasonality of food by disrupting production, trade and local markets. Rural communities face increase risks including recurrent crop failure, loss of livestock and reduced availability of fisheries and forest products. Changing temperatures and weather patterns create conditions for the emergence of new pests and diseases directly affecting the quality and quantity of yields as well as the availability and price of food, feed and fibre. Households with **older people** with reduced access to income will be hit hardest by price rises and volatility, and in cases may reduce the amount of food they consume as a result.

In households where food is short, **older women and men** often bear the brunt of the shortage because they choose to forgo food so that younger members of the family can eat. This can lead to malnutrition. During food shortages, access to food may be further compromised due to food distribution points being located in areas that may be difficult for older people and other vulnerable groups to reach or due to the lack of existing safety net or social protection programmes. Nutrition is also likely to be affected by climate change through reduced access to sufficient quantities of food or key food products that households are reliant on. This may include foods that are particular to the dietary needs of older people. The impact of malnutrition can be even greater for older people. Older people may be unable to utilise the kinds of food provided in food distributions. For example, those who have lost teeth may find it hard to chew hard foods, or they may find some foods difficult to digest. All these made it difficult for the older people totally enjoy their rights.

The quantity and quality of water is likely to become more precarious in the future, affecting people’s livelihoods, health and wellbeing, brought on by extreme weather conditions linked to climate change and environmental degradation. **Water scarcity** poses a grave risk for older people due to their increased susceptibility to dehydration. Dehydration has been associated with increased mortality rates among older people and various morbidities, such as impaired cognition or acute confusion, falling or constipation.

1. Climate change and the right to full and effective participate in decision-making concerning their well-being and full and active participation in all aspects of political, economic, social and ***cultural life of society***.

Climate change over the 21st century is projected to increase displacement of people. Displacement risk increases when populations that lack the resources for planned migration experience higher exposure to extreme weather events, in both rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries with low income. Source: IPCC, 2014 Migration and displacement. As more people migrate to cities or are forcibly displaced due to extreme weather and climate stresses, older people are increasingly vulnerable. There is a growing body of evidence that shows older people often stay behind in hazardous environments when the rest of their community is displaced. This is because they may not be physically capable of making the journey to safety due to ill-health or disability. They may be unable to either keep up with their family or risks slowing down their progress. In addition, they may feel tied to their home and lands and decide not to leave. When older people do move, migration and displacement in later life can be particularly traumatic, due to severed social ties, lack of facilities, rights and protection in unfamiliar new environments.

1. ***Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that addresses the nexus between climate change and the right of older persons. In particular, please share any information related to policies that ensure the participation of older persons in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; learning from the knowledge and experience of older persons. Please not and identify any relevant mechanism for ensuring accountability for these commitments, including their means of implements.***

The UNFCCC 2015 Paris Climate Conference, COP21, aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, with the goal of keeping global warming below 2OC. A total of 190 countries have already submitted nationally determined contributions, which will determine whether and how the world implements the COP21 agreement and embarks on the path towards a low-carbon, climate resilient future.

The need to address the threat of climate change to development progress has been further reflected in the outcomes and frameworks from the three other major conferences and summits of 2015: **the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendei Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.** Older people have been recognized for the first time as a stakeholder group within the Sendai Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals include specific references to all ages and older people. The implementation of the COP21 framework and climate-focused targets within the SDGs and Sendai must reflect the context of an ageing world. To be successful, the national-level commitments resulting from COP21must respond to the rights and needs of older people and other at-risk groups. It is vital that the binding framework agreed at COP21 and the national adaptation and mitigation strategies and commitments that arise from it, take into account ageing populations and their specific vulnerabilities.

**3. *Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how adverse effects of the climate change have affected older persons taking into account multiple and intersecting form of discrimination (i.e. decimation based on a combination of many grounds, including disability, gender, race, color, sex, language, religion, nationality and migration status) – including in older age cohorts.***

There are no specific data for this question.

**4. *Please describe any mechanism and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of older persons.***

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOR NIGERIA. The goal of the Action Plan is to ensure that national climate change processes in Nigeria mainstream gender considerations to guarantee inclusively of **all demographics** in the formulation and implantation of climate change initiatives, programs and policies.

**5. *Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of older persons.***

**Recommendations**

1. Ensure that older people are included in disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning, and have access to inclusive early warning systems and accessible evacuation routes.
2. Strengthen heat wave awareness and impact prevention programmes and access to appropriate heat resilient shelters for older people. Strengthen health services and community support mechanism to ensure that older people receive targeted medical support during heatwaves.
3. Ensure water resource management, drinking water and irrigation systems are prioritized within adaptation strategies and that these are accessible to older people.
4. Ensure that smallholder farmers are prioritizes within adaptive agricultural policies and that these integrates the knowledge of older farmers on resilient agricultural methods, while strengthening their access to scientific knowledge and labour-saving technological advances. Social protection systems should be prioritized to address the economic needs of vulnerable older people.
5. Adaptation strategies should strengthen food security through supporting increased food production, while supporting the establishment of nationally owned social protection schemes (including the delivery of direct nutrition intervention) that contribute to ensuring the realization of the right to adequate food for all. Food relief distribution programmes need to ensure accessibility for older people and other vulnerable households, while ensuring that food products are appropriate for their dietary needs.
6. Invest in healthcare systems and basic public health measure such as provision of clean water and sanitation, to ensure that they are climate resilient and responsive to older people, especially in areas where chronic and non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases and psychological conditions can be exacerbated by climate change.
7. Priorities the establishment of Climate Change Displacement Coordination Facility under the Paris agreement to provide assistance to people displaced by the impacts of climate change with a particular focus on certain groups such as older persons. Ensure that IDP and Refugee programmes are adequately targeted towards the needs and rights of older people and that older people are supported when they remain in environmentally risky areas.
8. Ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation strategies prioritize access to clean and sustainable energy for older people in order to reduce fuel poverty, contribute to carbon mitigation and strengthen resilience.