

Southern Africa Expert Meeting on the Rights of Older Women

AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of older persons in Africa

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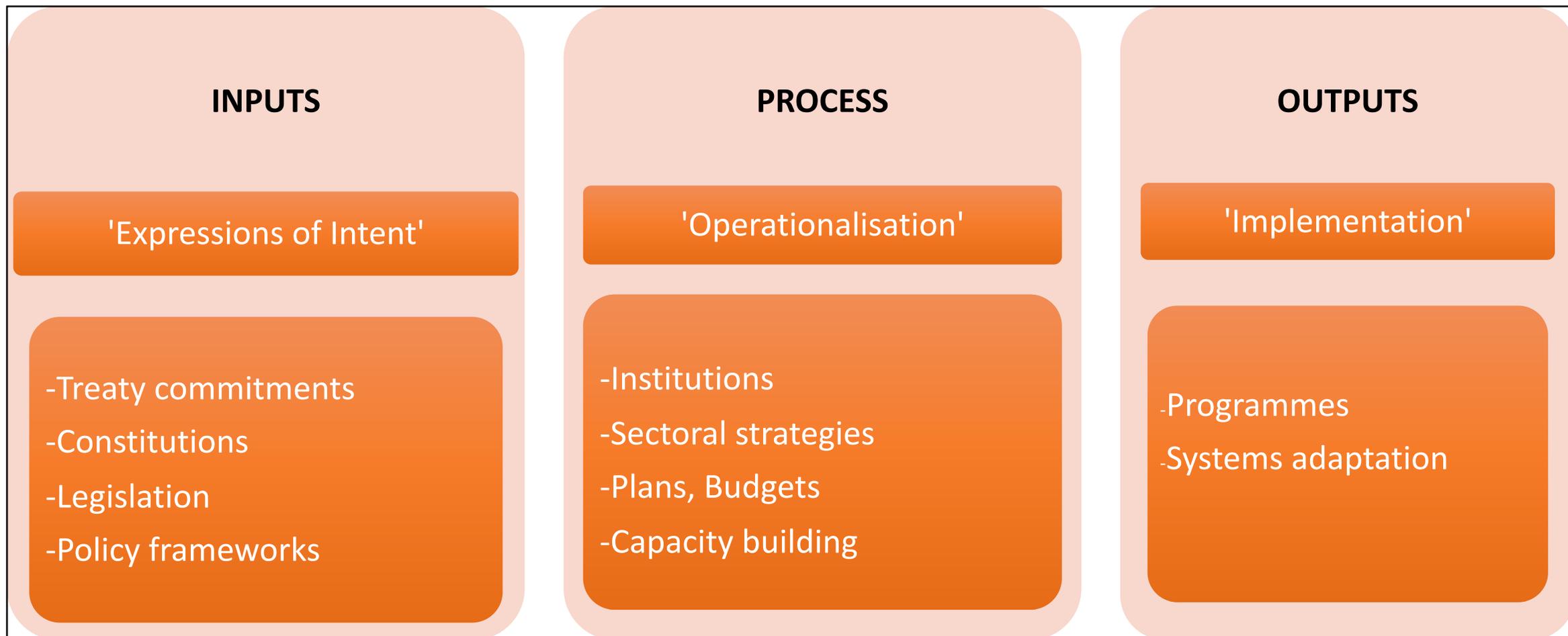
Introduction

- Adopted by the Assembly of Head of States during the 26th Ordinary session January 2016
- A process that started in 2002 through the Adoption of the African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action of Ageing
- Demonstrates the commitment of AU member states to ensuring human rights of people of all ages are respected and protected
- Commitment to ensures older women and men receive an equitable share of services, opportunities, resources and influencing opportunities
- Binding human rights instrument dedicated to the rights of older persons grounded on the African Charter on People's Rights

Content

- Covers a range of rights including but not limited to access to:
 - health services,
 - freedom from discrimination and abuse and the right to employment,
 - social protection and education,
 - providing a framework for governments to protect these rights.
- Coordination and data collection

Drivers for policy change



Status on the ratification process

- Note verbale send by AUC in Mid January 2017 and further in Oct 2017
- So far 5 countries has signed
- Malawi, Kenya, Lesotho and Uganda expressed the intent of signing and ratifying
- A number of countries has begun the process with some establishing a technical committee like Zambia
- Awareness creation in AU structures, processes including sub regional bodies
- HelpAge network members influencing and providing technical support to relevant government offices including working closely the government human rights commissions

Importance of ratification and domestication

Offers an opportunity to systematically and in a coordinated way undertake ageing development

Guide policy, programme and legal interventions for inclusion of older people

Access to rights and entitlements for older people and eliminate discrimination and abuse /-ve attitudes

MDGs sidelined older people and SDGs and Agenda 2063 offers an opportunity for inclusion

Recognition on contribution and vulnerability of OP while promoting their respect and dignity

Puts older people in the same level of importance as other groups – their relevance in wider African development agenda – UHC, SP, gender equality, empowerment, Human rights, demographic dividends

Key Asks

- Member states to accelerate the process of ratification and domestication of the Protocol
- Human rights civil society organisations, UN systems and member states human rights institutions, media including the sub-regional economic bodies to support the awareness creation, ratification and domestication processes of the Protocol
- The Protocol offers member states a basis to negotiate and support the ongoing discussions on UN Convention for the Rights of Older People.
- Strengthening evidence/data availability, documentation of ageing development, dialogue and partnerships etc
- Seek ways of increasing technical and financial allocation to support a coordination and reporting mechanism for older people issues at AU and national levels



Thank You

Challenges

- Limited awareness of the Protocol
- No member has signed