

# **COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COALITION OF SOCIETIES FOR THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS IN NIGERIA (COSROPIN) HELD ON TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **PREAMBLE:**

The Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN)'s First General Assembly was held on Tuesday 14 September 2021, at GRAF Hall, No. 10 Lingu Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja. The meeting which was attended by about 200 people, comprising Delegates and Observers from five operating zones of the Coalition, MDAs and Media, was chaired by Prof. Tunde Adeniran, Chairman of the Coalition's Board of Trustees.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The idea of a Coalition started on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2015 being the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Graceful Ageing Fellowship (GRAF), which brought together many organizations that were associated with Older Persons, where it was agreed that working alone, Organizations were unable to achieve much with Government on issues of Ageing, however as a Coalition, Government would definitely listen to one voice on issues pertaining to Ageing. At the meeting of CSOs, NGOs, FBOs and various organizations of retired people, held on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 at GRAF Hall, the name Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN) was adopted and a Communiqué was also developed. An election was also held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 that produced Executive Officers, with Sen. Eze Ajoku as President, to man the affairs of the Coalition to ensure registration with CAC and achieve the aims and objectives of the Coalition. The House appointed Five Board of Trustees members.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Goodwill messages were received from the Director General, National Senior Citizens' Centre, Director General, National Orientation Agency, Director, Special Control Unit Against Money Laundry, (SCMUL) and Director, Federal Inland Revenue Service, which promised continued collaboration the Coalition.

## **SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COSROPIN:**

- Succeeded in being the voice of Ageing in Nigeria and has put Ageing in the front burner
- Older Persons Bill passed by the Senate and awaiting concurrence at the House of Reps.
- Achieved national spread with Zonal Co-ordinators in 5 of the 6 geographical zones
- In 2016, COSROPIN attended Public Hearings in Nigeria, in support for an Act for a Commission for Senior Citizens, which later, on passage in 2017 became the National Senior Citizens' Centre
- COSROPIN played a very active role during COVID-19 Pandemic through distribution of facemasks, production of jingles and videos on COVID-19 protocols which were played on

TV and Radio and also organized numerous seminars, local and international webinars, and interviews on radio and television

- Collaborated with FMHADMSD in the flag-off of Palliatives at Karshi, Nasarawa State and subsequently, COSROPIN collected from the Ministry, the palliatives and distributed door-to-door to Older Persons in Abuja
- To forestall loneliness for Older Persons during COVID-19 lockdown, COSROPIN carried out credit top-up of N1000 airtime each in some States, including FCT
- Launched the Senior Citizens' Games with a Football Match between the Coalition and Area 8 All Stars Football Team, Garki, Abuja
- Initiated National Elders' Parliament in 2021 which was attended by the Rep of the SGF and other relevant MDAs who affirmed that NEP was a timely alternative Conflicts Resolution body
- Recognized by Government as being a valuable contributor in reviewing the National Policy on Ageing
- COSROPIN nominated the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman of CSOs on SDG in the Presidency and
- Organized two successful National Conferences.

#### **PARTNERING WITH THE FOLLOWING MDAs:**

- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD)
- Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD)
- National Orientation Agency (NOA)
- Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH)
- National Population Commission (NPC) and
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

#### **FUNDING**

The General Assembly noted that the Coalition has not enjoyed funding from any Organization. It also noted that funds that trickle-in through subscriptions and donations received during conferences were not sufficient to run the Secretariat and the operations of the Coalition. So far, the Executives who have been supporting the Coalition financially were indebted up to about Ten Million Naira (N10M).

#### **WAY FORWARD:**

- Membership drive and penetration to North West Zone and

- Fundraising drives through projects' initiations that would attract local and international grants.

### **ELECTIONS:**

Elections which was held by secret ballot at the end of the Executive Session of the General Assembly produced the following Executive Officers who were sworn-in by a Legal Officer from the FMHADMSD.

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. President                      | Sen. Dr. Eze Ajoku                     |
| 2. Vice President                 | Alh Aliyu Abdullahi                    |
| 3. Secretary General              | Arc. Victoria Onu                      |
| 4. Assist. Secretary General      | Mrs. Chinyere Ezeh                     |
| 5. Public Relations Officer (PRO) | Mrs. Petra Ologundudu                  |
| 6. Assist. PRO                    | Mrs. Mary-Angela Momoh                 |
| 7. Financial Secretary            | Barr. Col. Paul U. N. Omeruo (Rtd)     |
| 8. Treasurer                      | AIG Steve Aiyewumi (Rtd)               |
| 9. Legal Adviser                  | Z.O. Senbanjo (Esq)                    |
| 10. Welfare Officer               | Dr. Goddy Edoziem                      |
| 11. Ex-Officio:                   | To be nominated by various member NGOs |

The NEC appointed and the General Assembly approved, the following as the Board of Trustees members:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sen. Dr. Eze Ajoku            | President COSROPIN - Statutory |
| 2. Prof. Tunde Adeniran          |                                |
| 3. Mr. Olayinka Ajomale          |                                |
| 4. Col. Barr. Paul Omeruo (Rtd)  |                                |
| 5. Dame May Ikokwu               |                                |
| 6. Sir Peter Aliu                |                                |
| 7. Prof. (Mrs) Akoria Obehi      |                                |
| 8. Alh. Bala Umar                |                                |
| 9. Alh. Ibrahim Abubakar Jega    |                                |
| 10. Alh. Ibrahim Bunu            |                                |
| 11. Gen. Yakubu Usman (Rtd)      |                                |
| 12. AIG Steven Aiyewumi (Rtd)    |                                |
| 13. R/Admiral Chris Ehanmo (Rtd) |                                |

## **APPRECIATION**

- COSROPIN deeply appreciates the Former Head of State, Dr. Gen. Yakubu Gowon, (Rtd), GCFR, for being the Patron of COSROPIN
- HON MINISTER, FMHADMSD for recognition given to COSROPIN for palliatives and vulnerable Older Persons items
- Director General, National Orientation Agency for grass-roots collaborations in the 774 Local Governments in Nigeria
- Director General, National Population Commission, for collaborating to capture the statistics of the Older Persons in Nigeria
- Coordinator, International Federation on Ageing- Nigeria (IFA-N), for initiating NEP and other collaborations with COSROPIN
- Darling FM Radio, NTA News 24 for broadcasts and
- All other MDAs collaborating with the Coalition.

Prepared by:

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