

Input by the Islamic Republic of Iran
under the guiding questions for the 12th session of the General Assembly Open-ended
Working Group
regarding the 2nd focus area entitled: “Economic Security”
11 to 14 April 2022

Article 29 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the right to social protection as a universal right belonging to everyone, including older persons.

The National Economic, Cultural and Social Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2016–2021) included numerous measures to reduce poverty, empower the poor and other disadvantaged persons as well as promote social insurance and pensions. Furthermore, the Secretariat of the National Council of the Elderly advises Government agencies regarding the issues faced by older persons within society.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran promotes the family unit as a basic and fundamental foundation within society, it also acknowledges its contributions to the social inclusion of all, especially young persons, persons with disabilities and the older persons. In an effort to promote a strengthened culture of respect for the older persons, in particular, the Population Policy (2014) stated by the Supreme Leader was put into action in order to promote a culture of honoring the older persons. This Policy and documents thereon, also create the necessary conditions needed in order to ensure their health as well as maintenance in the family while anticipating the mechanisms needed to benefit from their experiences and capabilities. The current population of people over the age of 60, the age at which one is considered within the cohort of older persons, is 7,414,091 (Near to 10 percent of the Country's population).

In addition to the Constitution and its supportive provisions, the National Document for the Elderly has also been passed with the main goal of achieving an active, efficient and positive perspective on ageing by "honoring the older persons, promoting their physical and mental health and providing support and welfare, care and security for all the older persons".

The most important challenges ahead include the identification and grouping of the older persons, feminization of ageing, non-decentralization in the field of social services, transition from informal care to formal care, coverage of long-term home care services as well as addressing the poverty of the older persons and weaknesses of pension funds.

The “Civil Servants Pension Fund” focuses on retirement along with vitality and satisfaction. To achieve this goal, a variety of services are provided for older persons, including access to travel and leisure tours, online medical and health services to the retirees, creating “*Houses of Hope*” throughout the Country for the retirement period and establishing retirement centers as a civic space for the participation of the older persons in sustainable development. A number of other

measures and programs, such as organizing home-based businesses and facilitating the issuance of licenses in order to recognize informal jobs and the possibility of having benefits of insurance and retirement benefits in old age, are also undertaken.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken several measures to ensure older persons' economic security and health, including the payment of direct cash transfers by the Government, supporting older persons at risk of poverty through institutions, such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, provision of dignity cards (Manzelat Cards) to benefit from recreational and sports services, ensuring the income security of older persons by annually increasing their pensions in accordance with the inflation rate, implementing annual budget laws to support pensioners who do not have the minimum required record, reducing the cumulative effects of factors that increase the risk of disease among the older persons as well as developing policies that prevent the deterioration of their health.

Although the Government is trying to fulfill its commitments to older persons, one of the main issues concerning the negative impact on the economic security of older persons are illegal unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions imposed by the United States of America against the Country. The negative impact of unlawful unilateral economic sanctions on the Government's macroeconomic policies falls on the shoulders of society and affects the most vulnerable population, including older persons. While States must adopt appropriate policies, the international community and development partners have the responsibility to support their efforts or at the very least avoid imposing harmful measures that hinder the achievement of those goals. The imposition of illegal and inhumane unilateral sanctions is a clear instance of such destructive and harmful practices. These sanctions openly and indiscriminately target the daily life of ordinary citizens, including the older persons.