**10th SESSION OF THE OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING**

**SUBMISSION OF DIS-MOI (Droits Humains Ocean Indien) Mauritius**

**Guiding Question for the focus areas of Social Protection** **and social security (including social protection floors)**

**Answer to Question 1**

1. The National Pensions Act of 1976: (a) Non-contributory monthly universal pension entitled to all persons 60 years and older.

(b) Contributory Retirement Pension on reaching the age of 60 if he or she has contributed to the National Pensions Fund.

1. The Senior Citizens Council Act of 1995.
2. The Protection of the Elderly Persons Act 2005.
3. The Equal Opportunities Act of 2008.

All the above are enactments of Parliament.

**Answer to Question 2**

1. Government provides for the financial resources required in its annual Budget based on the beneficiary-population.

**Answer to Question 3**

1. There is a Social Security Office in almost all the villages and towns of the country. Information regarding social security and social protection schemes is relayed to the people from these offices, Social Welfare Centres, Women Centres, Citizens Advice Bureau.

 (ii) Older persons are made aware of:

1. Health care in the local dispensary or in a hospital.
2. The SAMU ( Service d’Aide Medical Urgente) can call at their place any time.
3. Regular service ambulances will take them from home to hospital and back.
4. There are monthly medical home visits for persons aged 90 and for those aged 75 being bed ridden.
5. They are eligible to the services of a carer, paid by Government, to provide the necessary support services.
6. Free provision of wheelchairs, spectacles, hearing aids and dentures.
7. Free flu vaccination
8. Day care centre programmes

**Answer to Question 4**

1. There are three groups of persons receiving Basic Retirement Pension:

60-90, 90-100, 100 and above.

From January this year beneficiaries in all three categories have obtained an increase of MUR 400 ( Mauritian Rupees) in their monthly pension which is now as follows:

60-90 : MUR 6,210

90-100: MUR 16,210

100 and above: MUR 21,210.

When recommended the beneficiary receives a carer’s allowance of MUR 3,000.

When the income is inadequate the family can apply for an income support of MUR 285 per beneficiary of old age pension which is granted after a means test is conducted.

Families of old age pensioners who consume less than 75 KW of electricity per month receive the income support.

Old persons aged 60 and above benefit from free public bus transport and from free medical care in Government hospitals.

However, for those who have to rent a house and pay for utilities the pension is not enough when the pension is the only income in the family.

**Answer to Question 5**

This information is relayed inside the families as in almost all families there is a beneficiary.

Employers inform their out-going employees on account of age.

Officers of the Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity spread the information during their meetings in Social Welfare Centers and on the media.

The Charter of the Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity includes this information.

Eligible older persons are requested to bring a set of documents: I.D card, birth certificate, proof of residence. Their pension may credited in their bank account or they may collect it at the nearest post-office.

**Answer to Question 6**

Retired public officers, the media, opinion leaders, Trade Unions have been more in the forefront by exposing their analysis and requests to Government, than organisations of older persons, for the design and implementation of normative and political framework.

**Answer to Question 7**

Social security and social protection is equal and universal. Old persons in vulnerable groups having children or grand-children under their care are relieved from the burden of buying school materials.

Aggrieved persons may avail of the Equal Opportunities Commission for redress.

**Answer to Question 8**

The Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity has an updated register of beneficiaries. Government provides funds through its annual budget.

The Ministry keeps track of older persons who live more than 6 months abroad. These persons are not entitled to the pension unless they have settled anew in the country.

Medical doctors on home visits can recommend that a beneficiary of a carer’s allowance be re-examined by a medical panel to confirm the degree of disability or see improvement in the health in order to maintain the allowance or remove it.

Social Security Officers do effect surprise visits to an auspice or home to check quality of services and treatment.

**Answer to Question 9**

Complainants can

1. go directly to a Police Station

(ii) contact the Elderly Watch of their district

(iii) obtain a protection order from a court of justice if living under the same roof as their abuser/abusers.