

## **14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**

### **Guiding questions on the normative content related to social inclusion**

1. How are the key human rights related to older persons' social inclusion defined in your country's national and local legislation? If definitions are unavailable, how should such rights be defined considering relevant existing national, regional and international legal frameworks?

According to Article 83 of the Egyptian Constitution 2014, "The State shall guarantee health, economic, social, cultural and entertainment rights of the elderly, provide them with appropriate pensions to ensure them a decent standard of living and empower them to participate in public life. The state shall take into account the needs of the elderly while planning public utilities. It also encourages civil society organizations to participate in caring for the elderly".

The State is committed to protecting the rights of the elderly stipulated in the Egyptian law of the protection of elderly rights, or in any other law, including guaranteeing the rights of the elderly. The law includes the rights of the elderly to social care, which include family solidarity, institutional care, home care for the elderly, the right to psychological care and rehabilitation, in addition to the rights related to health care for the elderly, the right to community rehabilitation and empowerment, as well as the right to practice sports. Cultural and recreational activities, participation in political and social life.

Additionally, the law stipulates that "the necessary measures should be taken to ensure the accessibility and use of the physical environment, means of Transport, Information, Communication and technology for the elderly, to maximize their abilities and skills".

2. Please provide references to existing national legal standards relating to older persons social inclusion.

The State is committed to protecting the rights of the elderly stipulated in the Egyptian law of the protection of elderly rights, or in any other law, such as providing a safe environment for the elderly and creating appropriate conditions for a decent living in all aspects. Besides, providing a range of social services, recreational and cultural activities that meet the needs of the elderly.

The Egyptian law includes articles related to raising community awareness of the rights of the elderly and providing them with amenities, as well as enabling them to participate in the management of public affairs and formulating policies and programs related to their affairs.

The number of elderly homes has reached 174, providing services to 4,500 elderly men and women. The number of elderly clubs has reached 191 clubs throughout the governorates, a group of activities are practised and events are held to encourage the participation of older persons in public life. The number of its beneficiaries has reached 56000.

In June 2023, the Ministry of Social Solidarity launched a new initiative called “The Golden Age”. The initiative aims to promote social inclusion of the elderly, organize cultural, religious and recreational activities to highlight the talents and abilities of the elderly and disseminate awareness of the elderly rights. An exhibition of elderly products and handcrafts was organized to encourage them to start their own business and increase their social interaction.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and a Media Production Company. A TV show reality competition program called “The Geniuses”, has started its first episode with elderly rivals, to interact with general knowledge. The main aim of the TV program is to promote social inclusion of the elderly socially and benefit from their experiences, in addition to marketing a social message that the elderly have a gift that must be benefited from, and that they have the right to participate in activities and programs and society in general, and to improve the mental image of the elderly and encourage elderly to volunteer in community work.

3. What are the measures that should be undertaken by the State to respect, protect and fulfil relevant human rights to ensure the social inclusion of older persons? Special considerations

- Increasing Awareness-raising campaigns on elderly rights in cooperation with NGOs.
- Developing and strengthening relationships among social workers in care centres and the elderly themselves, to increase social inclusion.

- Ensuring the application of the legislation to protect and promote the elderly rights and provide multiple services.
- Encourage the participation of young people in providing the necessary services for the elderly at elderly homes, to consolidate the integration of social relations between generations.
- Promote policies and strategies according to international and regional agreements of human rights.

4. What special measures and specific considerations should be considered to respect, protect and fulfil relevant human rights to ensure the social inclusion of older persons?

To ensure social inclusion for older persons, specific measures should be considered such as:

- Promoting and building inter-generational support in communities.
- Age-friendly initiatives to involve all seniors (old persons) in activities where they have experience can keep them engaged with the community, and help them feel valued in their community.
- Ensuring digital inclusion for older persons, and training older persons to learn to live and work with digital tools, as that becomes the easiest way to communicate and get services done.

5. What are the best practices and main challenges faced by your country in the adoption and implementation of relevant human rights to ensure the social inclusion of older persons?

One of the best practices is “The Golden Age Initiative”, which aims to promote social inclusion of the elderly, organize cultural, religious and recreational activities to highlight the talents and abilities of the elderly and disseminate awareness of the elderly rights.

The high number of older persons is a great challenge in my country, as a lot of resources are needed to promote their rights. The number of elderly people in Egypt (60 years and over) reached about 9 million, representing 8.6% of the total population in 2023.