1. **What are the legal provisions in your country that recognizes the right to social security and social protection, including non-contributory and contributory old-age benefits? Do they have a constitutional, legislative or executive foundation?**

As a legislative foundation, the Social Security Act of 1935, U.S.C. ch. 7, created a basic right to an old-age pension in the United States. It is contributory in nature and available to citizens of the US and certain legal immigrants. This right has been affirmed by multiple court cases.

1. **What steps have been taken to guarantee universal coverage, ensuring that every older person has access to social security and social protection schemes including noncontributory, contributory and survivor old-age pensions, to ensure an adequate standard of living in older age?**

Unfortunately, not all older persons have access to social security funding; one must work full-time for ten years in the US and be a citizen or legal immigrant in order to be eligible for retirement benefits.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that every older person has access to social security and social protection schemes which guarantee them access to adequate and affordable health and care and support services for independent living in older age?**

The Medicare and Medicaid programs, which are part of the Social Security Act, provide healthcare and long-term care supports to older persons; Medicare covers all older persons who can pay premiums; for those below a certain poverty level, Medicaid will cover them. Medicaid is the only program providing LTC supports; both programs provide healthcare.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure the levels of social security and social protection payments are adequate for older persons to have access to an adequate standard of living, including adequate access to health care and social assistance?**

Monthly Social Security payments increase with inflation; Medicare and Medicaid services expand with growing technological and medical advancements. There are also federal programs that help older adults such as the “Older Americans Act” programs; they provide HCBS, food, transportation and social services. However, their scope and funding are limited.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure older persons have adequate and accessible information on available social security and social protection schemes and how to claim their entitlements?**

Social Security has field offices and phone and internet hotlines; Medicare and Medicaid have phone and internet hotlines.

1. **The design and implementation of normative and political framework related to social security and social protection benefits included an effective and meaningful participation of older persons?**

There is no formal process to include older adults in this framework.

1. **Which are the measures adopted to ensure equitable access by older persons to social security and social protection, paying special attention to groups in vulnerable situation?**

Some federal programs, including the Older Americans Act, have “targeting language” to make sure that programs are reaching out to vulnerable older persons.

1. **What mechanisms are in place to ensure social security and social protection schemes are effective and accountable?**

The federal government appoints oversight boards for the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs and has an Inspector General to issue annual reports on the Social Security program.

1. **What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress for denial of their right to social security and social protection?**

Older persons may sue Social Security Administration or the Health and Human Services Department in administrative court. There is also an administrative appeals process for Medicare and Medicaid coverage denials.