

**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE X SESSION OF THE
OPEN-ENDED**

WORKING GROUP ON AGEING:

Social protection and social security (including social protection floors)

National legal framework

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?

There are no legal laws in Palestine that recognize social protection or old-age benefits except for pensions for government-retirees. The elderly, who are not government retired, 11% of them receive social benefits, which is barely enough for a week, and there is no legal justification for that.

Availability

2. 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?

The steps taken by the PCCDS and its partners for the elderly to access social protection are the launching of the national advocacy campaign to compel the Palestinian government to implement the 1st goal of the SDGs and to find judicial mechanisms to do them their fairness.

3. 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?

To ensure that every elderly in Palestine has access to adequate and affordable care services for independent living in older age, the PCCDS conducts a national advocacy campaign to pressure the Palestinian Authority to implement the 3rd goal of the Sustainable Development Plan and to develop judicial mechanisms for justice.

Adequacy

4. 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?

PCCDS has built a strong coalition of institutions and launched its national campaign to harmonize the social and health protection laws with the goals of the Sustainable Development Plan for the elderly to access health care and social security.

Accessibility

5. 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?

In order to ensure that the elderly have sufficient information about social security and how to claim their old-age benefits, the PCCDS implemented an awareness campaign in Palestine; especially for the elderly, on the right of access to information law, which ensures that elderly have access to the information they want from ministries related to their rights.

6. 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?

- Ensuring the participation of elderly in the design and implementation of the normative and political framework on social security
- Ensuring the participation of the elderly in the evaluation of implementing the normative and political framework on social security
- Ensuring the participation of elderly in the follow-up, monitoring, and documentation of judicial mechanisms of justice

Equality and non-discrimination

7. 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?

Measures for the equitable access of the elderly to social protection are as follows:

- *Equality between males and females*
- *Equality between different social groups*
- *Positive discrimination for vulnerable groups*
- *Paying attention to the elderly with special needs*

Accountability

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

There are no comprehensive plans for social protection of elderly in Palestine, but we are working with our partners through advocacy campaigns to pass a social protection law based on the 1st goal of the Sustainable Development Plan and to be linked to a judicial mechanism available to the elderly to make complaints.

9. 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?

There is no social protection law in Palestine and therefore there are no judicial or non-judicial mechanisms.

**Guiding Questions for the focus areas of the X Session of the Open-ended
Working Group on Ageing:**

Education, training, life-long learning and capacity building

National Legal Framework

1. In your country/region, how is the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age guaranteed in legal and policy frameworks?

In Palestine, the right to education, training, lifelong learning, and capacity building are guaranteed in the legal and political frameworks, but the obstacles in this area are:

- *The education fees are very high so most elderly cannot access this right*
- *Economic conditions are very difficult and have a greater impact on the elderly, which makes this right a marginalized priority*

These impediments are completely contrary to the 4th goal of the Sustainable Development Plan.

Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability

2. What are the key issues and challenges faced by older persons in your country/region with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, life-long learning, and capacity building services?

The major challenges elderlies face regarding quality education and lifelong training:

- *The difficult economic conditions of the elderly, which made education a marginalized priority in their rights*
- *The high fees of education and training in Palestine is a violation of the 4th goal of the SDGs*
- *There is no system of complaints and seeking redress for denial of the right of elderly to have an education*

3. What steps have been taken to ensure that education, training, life-long learning, and capacity building services are available and accessible to all older persons, adapted to their needs, suited to their preferences and motivations, and of high quality?

Steps taken by the PCCDS to ensure lifelong learning are as follows:

- *Building a strong coalition of civil society institutions to integrate the 4th goal of the SDGs into the government sectorial plans related to elderly*
- *Implementing a national advocacy campaign to ensure that education, training, lifelong learning, and capacity building are available to all elderly to suit their needs*
- *Adopting a system for filing complaints and seeking redress for the elderly about their right to lifelong education*

4. In your country/region, are there studies and/or data available on the access of older persons to the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age?

There are no studies or data available in Palestine on the access of the elderly to the right of education and lifelong training. However, according to the information available to PCCDS and the partners, educated elderly percentage doesn't exceed 4%.

Equality and non-discrimination

5. In your country, is age one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination in relation to education in older age?

According to Palestinian law, elderly can learn for life, but there is clear discrimination based on the individual economic situation, social status, and administrative corruption.

Accountability

6. What mechanisms are necessary for already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building?

There are no existing mechanisms that grant elderly an opportunity to file complaints and petition to deny the deprivation of their right to lifelong education.