



Jordan's intervention on the normative questions for thirteenth session of the open-ended working group concerned with aging/ New York

The questions identified that relate to the normative content of the issues examined in the twelfth session

The following points to be focused on:

- The contribution of the elderly to sustainable development

The definition:

1. How are the main human rights related to the participation of the elderly, and thus their contribution to sustainable development, identified in the national legislation in your country? If definitions are not available, how should these rights be defined in relevant national, regional, and international legal frameworks?

The answer: The rights of the elderly are defined as stated in the Constitution and subsidiary legislation such as the Social Security Law, Personal Status and Penalties law, Labour Law, and the Protection against Domestic Violence Act...

The Jordanian Constitution as amended in 2011 expressly stipulated the protection of the elderly, as Article (6/5) stipulated the following:

“The law protects maternity, childhood, and old age takes care of young people and disabilities, protects them from abuse and exploitation, and promotes their participation and integration in the various aspects of life.”

The Jordanian government has constitutionally strengthened the protection of old age in Jordanian society, and this has been reflected in two important national documents; Jordan Document 2025 "National Vision and Strategy", and the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights for the years 2016-2025. Each of the two documents addressed the strategic priorities, initiatives, and activities that will be implemented over the next ten years in order to protect the rights of the elderly and ensure a decent life for them.

The Jordanian National Strategy Document for the Elderly for the years (2018-2022), which was prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs with the National Committee for the Elderly, constitutes an integrated national system along with other national documents and strategies that the concerned authorities are working to implement in order to advance the issues of the elderly in Jordan in all spheres of life, protecting their rights, and thus increasing their participation in sustainable development.

The Scope of the Rights:

2. Please provide references to existing national legal standards related to the contribution of the elderly to sustainable development on normative elements such as:

a) The right to equality and the prohibition of all forms of discrimination against the elderly on the basis of age, alone or in combination with other grounds, in the context of sustainable development;

b) Eliminate all forms of ageism and age-based discrimination from sustainable development laws, frameworks, programs, policies, and practices.

The answer to the second question, section A + B:

These rights are generated according to Article 6/1 of the Jordanian Constitution, which states:

" Jordanians are equal before the law, without any discrimination among them in regard to their rights and obligations on grounds of race, language or religion."

Also, Jordan policies focused on improving the quality of life for all segments of society, with a focus on vulnerable groups of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, and providing them with care through a package of systems and measures for social protection, housing programs, education, health, and basic services. or religion, or sex. In order to promote the principle of equality and the prohibition of discrimination, the Jordanian government launched in 2020 the government's gender policy, and this policy has been circulated to all ministries and institutions, as this policy aims to combat all forms of discrimination and achieve justice and equal opportunities between the sexes at the level of human resources and service recipients from citizens, as well as the elderly.

The data of the Ministry of Social Development also indicated that there are 9 homecares for the elderly in the Jordan (5 private, 4 voluntary, and one day club until 2023) and the number of elderly beneficiaries of these homes is (394) females (200) (194) males. Note that the Ministry of Social Development covers (147) accommodation expenses for those who are unable to join these homes at his own expense.

The percentage of families benefiting from the National Aid Fund in which the head of the household is elderly 27% until 2021 .

The results of the National Aid Fund sample survey issued by the Jordan Strategy Forum indicated that (31.8%) of the informal sector employment belongs to the age group (40-31), while the age group (50-41) represents (32.4%), which means that most of the workers in the Jordanian informal sector are concentrated in the productive age group between (50-31). On the other hand, the lowest age group in the informal sector was elderly (61 and over) at 6%.

Within the Corona pandemic, preventive and precautionary measures have been taken in the homes for the elderly by the Ministry of Social Development .

c) The right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information;

d) The right to assemble peacefully.

e) The right to freedom to form associations.

The answer to sections C+D:

These rights are also included in the Jordanian constitution, as in Article (7) of the constitution, which includes:

1. Personal freedom shall be guaranteed
2. Any infringement on the rights and public freedoms or sanctity of the private life of Jordanians is a crime punishable by law.

"This is a clear provision to recognize the freedoms and rights of all members of society, including the elderly".

Subsidiary laws such as the Personal Status Act, the Penal Code and the Protection against Domestic Violence Act also guarantee such justice and protection.

The Jordanian National Strategy for the elderly for the years 2018 - 2022 also stated that the strategy's objective is "to provide security and the well-being of the elderly", which is one of the key elements for the realization of the right to autonomy, freedom to take actions and make decisions.

f) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives

The answer: Despite the current orientation in the formation of the Council of Ministers for the category of young people, the presence of ministers in the category of the elderly is taken into account due to their long experience. Although, the Senate is always formed by a royal will, and the presence of the largest number of elderly people with scientific and practical experience is taken into account in its formation, whose percentage in the Senate reached 80%.

g) The right to development, including the elderly as active participants and beneficiaries of development

h) Active, free, and meaningful participation of the elderly and their representative organizations in all matters related to sustainable development, including in political processes:

The answer to sections G+H:

All national documents, strategies, and plans highlighted the importance of the role of the elderly in society as an active and effective community group, as all stakeholders work and aim at the importance of the contribution and role of the elderly in the development process by involving them and drawing on their experiences. This is also underscored in the National Strategy for the Elderly for 2018 - 2022, which referred to a whole pivot around the elderly in development and indicated the priorities to be taken to increase their participation and contribution to the development process.

i) Access to remedies and prompt compensation when mentioning the elderly above

The answer: Reference was also made previously to the Constitution and subsidiary legislation such as the Social Security Act, the Labour Code, and the Personal Status Act....

The Commitments

3. What special measures and considerations should the Country take to respect, protect and fulfil the above rights to ensure the elderly's contribution to sustainable development?

The answer: Programmes, plans, and strategies approved by the Government should be implemented, including:

First: The government's indicative executive program 2021-2024: This program included priorities for policies, programs, and projects that the Jordanian government will work on during the aforementioned time period. Among these priorities related to the elderly are the following:

- ✓ The Jordanian Government is studying the establishment of a special fund to support the elderly and provide all their necessary needs (home nursing, psychological support, day clubs), and ensure a decent living for them.
- ✓ Providing residential care for the elderly at the expense of the Ministry of Social Development.
- ✓ Developing the social security system to ensure a decent life for all Jordanians, and linking it to the system of education, health, work, and striving to reach its positive effects for all segments of society.
- ✓ Applying decent work standards and registering workers in the social security program.
- ✓ Developing social security legislation to ensure its sustainability, and involving new categories of workers.

Second: The National Strategy for Social Protection 2019-2025: At the end of 2018, the Jordanian government formulated the National Strategy for Social Protection 2019-2025, in a participatory approach with all concerned institutions from the public and private sectors, and civil society organizations. The strategy's vision was that "all Jordanians must have a decent life, decent job opportunities, and possible social services." This strategy focused on three axes:

- ✓ Opportunity: The Government guarantees a fair labour market focused on the private sector and relies on decent working conditions and social security to enable Jordanian families to become economically self-sufficient.
- ✓ Empowerment: The Government provides comprehensive and high-quality basic services including education, health, and social care for individuals in need within their families and communities.
- ✓ Dignity: The Government provides targeted and temporary social assistance to citizens who cannot achieve economic self-sufficiency to enable them to maintain a basic level of consumption.

The Implementation

4. What are the good practices and key challenges for your country in adopting and implementing the above-mentioned normative framework to ensure the elderly's contribution to sustainable development?

The answer: The practices are as follows:

- The presence of the elderly in decision-making positions, including their participation in the Council of Ministers and the Senate, and ensuring the importance of their participation in the community's development process.
- The interest of the Jordanian government in the issues of the elderly and the presence of a ministry concerned with their issues and affairs, which is the Ministry of Social Development, in addition to the formation of a national committee for the elderly, whose members represent most of the national governmental institutions, which was formed by a decision of the Prime Ministry in the year 2012, which implements activities that will improve the services provided to the elderly, which will also protect their rights.
- The interest of the local community through the implementation of many national initiatives aimed at benefiting from the experiences of the elderly.

Challenges: Despite the attention at all levels, there are no budgets allocated for the issues of the elderly within the budgets of many government institutions that would increase the contribution of the elderly in society and thus contribute to the process of sustainable development.

➤ **The Economic Security**

The Definition

1. How are the main human rights related to the economic security of older persons defined in your country's national legislation? If definitions are not available, how should these rights be defined in the national, regional, and international legal frameworks:

The answer:

The concept of the elderly's right to economic security is linked to the extent to which they are provided with a secure income, particularly after retirement. If there is no source of income for them, there is no pension. This concept includes the strategic plans of some of the institutions concerned, including the strategic plan of the National Aid Fund 2017-2022, which aims to reduce poverty and unemployment levels at the national level and to build an effective social protection system. The strategic objective of the elderly is 'To achieve the economic, social and psychological

stability of Jordanian families in need in order to contribute to the achievement of national social security.

- The Elderly Care System for the year 2021 and its instructions for the year 2022 were approved, according to which a special account for the elderly in the Ministry of Social Development will be established, which will provide social, psychological, and health services; will contribute to improving the quality of life of the elderly (attached).
- The Social Security Corporation grants loans to the retired elderly in order to empower them economically.

The Scope of Rights

1. Please provide references to existing national legal standards on the elderly's economic security on normative elements such as:

a) The right to social security; including regular adjustment of benefits with changes in living

The answer: Within the strategic plan of the Social Security Corporation for the years 2020-2023, and within the second strategic objective to expand the social protection coverage, and to take a vital role in supporting the social protection system by activating partnerships and contributing to providing possible protection for all segments of the community through policies to expand coverage in social security. The corporation seeks to expand the coverage of protection by all means that guarantee the citizen's right to social protection in its full sense, by fighting insurance evasion, organizing the inclusion of expatriate workers, and including new groups of the community under the coverage of insurance, such as domestic workers, children of Jordanian women, and people of the Gaza Strip. The Corporation has set many indicators to monitor the achievement of this goal, and many initiatives are to be implemented, in order to achieve a secure income for retirees in old age. We can summarize what the Social Security Corporation offers to the elderly as follows:

- The Social Security Corporation provides a set of rights for the elderly represented in benefiting from pension salaries, especially those of old age, disability, and death, as well as personal advances for social security retirees, which amount to ten times the retirement salary and with simple interest.
- The Corporation also provides a discount card (Hayyak) for its retirees, which provides a 5% discount on all their purchases from Military Consumer Establishments.
- It also provides an installment program through installments for all purchases from the entities approved in the installment program, in addition to discounts and installments on tuition fees.
- It also provides them with the possibility of adding years of service in the event that they do not complete the required contributions when they reach old age.
- It also provides social security for eligible heirs in the event of the death of pensioners.

b) The right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, clothing, food, water, and costs among others

The answer: The Greater Amman Municipality's strategic plan for the years 2022-2026 states: The Greater Amman Municipality's strategy included many projects that respond to the needs of the elderly, which are as follows:

- ✓ Establishment and development of facilities and infrastructure: which aims to rehabilitate many neighborhoods in the capital, Amman, including housing, sidewalks, gardens, bus stops, and pedestrian paths, to make them suitable for the elderly.
- ✓ The Project of Amman, a friendly city for the elderly: The project will target the elderly and future persons at the aging stage of the City of Amman's population of both genders and of all nationalities by providing health, psychological, and economic awareness programs and community and recreational participation for the elderly, taking into account the international standards of elderly-friendly cities, including that housing is suitable for the elderly.

The Jordanian strategy for the elderly and its executive plan for the years 2018-2022 included among its objectives the importance of providing an adequate standard of living for the elderly, in a manner that guarantees their dignity and well-being.

c) The right to work, whether there is a national minimum wage or any alternative mechanism to ensure a decent standard of living, and whether there is a system of regular measurement and adjustment;

The answer: There is no explicit provision in Jordanian legislation, whether in the Labor Law or any other law that recognizes the right of the elderly to work. But by referring to the Labor Law and referring to the second article of the law: we find that it defines (the worker) as (every person, male or female, who performs a job in exchange for a wage and is subordinate to the employer and under his command, and this includes minors and those under trial or rehabilitation). Therefore, the law does not distinguish between groups, and taking into account the elderly category is within the obligations of the employer to provide occupational health and safety requirements, including what was stipulated in the instructions to protect workers and institutions from the risks of the work environment for the year 1998.

- These rights can also be defined through policies and strategies, which take into account national, regional, and international frameworks; where activities and initiatives are developed in the community's operational plans to promote the participation of the elderly in employment.
- The Jordanian strategy for the elderly and its executive plan for the years 2018-2022 included the focus on work and the importance of employing the elderly, which will be reflected in their well-being, benefit from their experiences, and maximize their role in the community, as one of the most prominent challenges that the elderly face when they retire is income.

d) Prohibit all forms of discrimination against the elderly on the basis of age, individually or in conjunction with other reasons, in all matters of economic security

The answer:

These rights originate in accordance with article 6/1 of the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates:

" Jordanians are equal before the law, without any discrimination among them in regard to their rights and obligations on grounds of race, language or religion."

Also, what was previously mentioned in the constitution, Article 6/5, referred to: "Protecting old age from abuse and exploitation."

e) The links between economic, social, and cultural rights relevant to the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information; the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association

f) the active, free, and meaningful participation of the elderly and their representative organizations in all matters related to ensuring their economic security, including in political processes

the answer to section E+F

As mentioned in the field of sustainable development; these rights are included in the Jordanian constitution, as in Article (7) of the constitution, which includes:

1. Personal freedom shall be guaranteed
2. Any infringement on the rights and public freedoms or sanctity of the private life of Jordanians is a crime punishable by law.

"This is a clear provision to recognize the freedoms and rights of all members of society, including the elderly".

Subsidiary laws such as the Personal Status Act, the Penal Code and the Protection against Domestic Violence Act also guarantee such justice and protection.

The Jordanian National Strategy for the elderly for the years 2018 - 2022 also stated that the strategy's objective is "to provide security and the well-being of the elderly", which is one of the key elements for the realization of the right to autonomy, freedom to take actions and make decisions and achieve economic security.

g) Access to immediate remedies and compensation for violation of the elderly's rights mentioned above

The answer: Reference was also made previously to the Constitution and subsidiary legislation such as the Social Security Act, the Labour Code, and the Personal Status Act....

The commitments:

What measures and considerations should be taken to respect workers' rights and protection to ensure the economic security of the elderly in your country?

The answer: The Ministry of Labour's strategic objectives are to reduce abuses in the labour market, increase the quality of services provided, increase the number of Jordanian workers in the labour market and strengthen partnerships with the public and private sectors, civil community organizations, and international organizations.

Thus, the Ministry includes the elderly in its strategic objectives as employees and job seekers, who have all the employment rights without exception. The category of the elderly is treated in terms of employment rights as an employee and a worker with rights regardless of age group.

By referring to the second article of the Labor Law: we find that it defines (the worker) as (every person, male or female, who performs a job in exchange for a wage and is subordinate to the employer and under his command, and this includes minors and those under trial or rehabilitation). Therefore, the law does not distinguish between groups, and taking into account the elderly category is within the obligations of the employer to provide occupational health and safety requirements, including what was stipulated in the instructions to protect workers and institutions from the risks of the work environment for the year 1998.

The Minister of Social Development also issued instructions for the conditions and procedures for recommending exempting persons with severe disabilities from paying the fees for issuing a work permit for a non-Jordanian worker for the year 2022 issued under Article (12/f) of the Labor Law. This is if the disabled person is in dire need of assistance from others to carry out the burdens of his daily life and the level of his income or the income of his guardian or custodian requires this exemption for the purposes of providing assistance to people with disabilities.

The flexible work system No. (22) of (2017) became effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette on 16/3/2017, which took into account in its third article the persons who assume family responsibilities, including the elderly, and in the year 2018, flexible work instructions were issued, which identified the mechanisms that help workers to work in a form of flexible work.

The Procedures

What are the best practices and the main challenges facing your country regarding the adoption and implementation of the above-mentioned normative framework to ensure the economic security of the elderly?

The answer: The Practices:

During the year 2021, the Jordanian government enacted legislation for the elderly, which is the “Law on Care of the Elderly No. (97) of 2021 dated 01/09/2021”, and published it in the Official Gazette, which aims to provide health, psychological and social care services to the elderly category through Create a special account for that and determine the aspects of spending from it, and encourage the elderly’s families who are unable or donors to take care of them at home, where the account was opened with the Ministry of Social Development on 19/12/2021 under the name of the “Deposit for Elderly Care”, in which donations, grants, aid, bequests, and endowments are accepted and managed. The account is allocated for the following expenditures:

- Providing appropriate social, health, physical, and psychological care services for the elderly in their homes and among their families, according to instructions issued for this purpose.
- Improving the efficiency of social services provided to the elderly.
- Sheltering the elderly whose families are unable to take care of them, or those who do not have families to take care of them.
- Working to integrate the elderly into the community.

- Supporting programs and projects directed at the elderly.

The concerted efforts of all concerned parties in overcoming the obstacles and challenges facing the economic security of the elderly have been developed by the National Strategy for the Elderly, and thus following up on the implementation and evaluation of this strategy has an important and major role in facing the challenges as well as providing best practices at the national level to help this category.

The Challenges: The insufficient funding to replenish the account, as well as a lack of budgets allocated for the elderly in many national institutions concerned with this category.

The questions identified that pertain to the normative content of the issues examined in the thirteenth session

Area of Concentration 2: The Social Inclusion

The axis:

Social inclusion is a precondition for the elderly's ability to exercise multiple human rights. Social inclusion is the process of improving conditions for participation in the community for people disadvantaged on the basis of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, economic status, or otherwise through (1) enhancing opportunities, (2) access to resources, and (3) voice and (4) respect for rights. From a human rights perspective, achieving social inclusion requires addressing discriminatory structures that have led to exclusion, deprivation of resources, and lack of opportunities identified in many international human rights instruments.

On the one hand, the full social inclusion of the elderly is based on the removal of existing barriers and, on the other hand, on the adoption of measures that actively promote their inclusion. As such, the achievement of social inclusion is achieved through the exercise of human rights that have already been or will be analyzed by the working group. Therefore, these guiding questions are geared towards addressing those areas that have not been and will not be addressed in other working sessions.

The working group has already covered the following areas of focus and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of the elderly:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Neglect, violence, abuse, autonomy, and independence
- Long-term care and palliative care, social protection, and social security
- Education, training, lifelong learning, and capacity building
- Access to justice
- Right to work and access to the labour market
- Economic security
- The elderly's contribution to sustainable development

The working group could cover the following areas of focus and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of the elderly in a future session:

- Participation in public life and decision-making processes
- Accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat (transportation, housing, and access)

Indicative Questions:

- **What legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country explicitly focus on the elderly who are marginalized on the basis of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, religion, economic or other status? (This may include addressing the elderly population in frameworks intended for**

other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, immigrant minorities and others;

The answer: The strategic plan of the Ministry of Social Development 2022-2026 included as one of its national priorities; taking care of the elderly and providing them with a decent life, and dedicating a sub-goal aimed at improving the services provided to the elderly and wanderers, through the implementation of the project to care and protect the rights of the elderly within the family and childhood program.

• What legal age limits exist in your country that prevents the full and equal participation of the elderly in the communities in areas such as employment, education, health care, financial goods, and services, or others?

The answer: The Ministry of Education law does not stipulate any provision that prevents the education of the elderly, where there are programs for eradicating illiteracy.

The answer: Also, there is no provision in the Labor Law stipulating a specific age for work and employment, as well as in the Public Health Law. Rather, it stipulated the importance of providing health services to the elderly, and Jordanian banks also raised the ceiling for obtaining loans for the age of 70 instead of 60.

• What, if any, are the applicable measures to ensure that the elderly in institutions separate from their communities - such as institutional care systems or prisons - can continue to participate in their community?

The answer: The Ministry of Social Development, within its supervisory role over the care homes for the elderly and day clubs, makes continuous visits to assess the conditions, and to ensure the care of the elderly to the fullest extent, in addition to the Ministry's participation in these homes and clubs in all activities that would involve the elderly and communicate with them, (the legislation in force in the Family and Childhood Directorate with regard to care homes for the elderly and day clubs is attached):

• The countries have an obligation to use the maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. What is the share of the national budget directed to the elderly as a privileged group?

The answer: A budget is allocated within the budget of the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health for the elderly, and in this field also, during the year 2021, the Jordanian government enacted legislation for the elderly, which is "The Elderly Care System No. (97) for the year 2021 on 01/09/2021," and its instructions for the year 2022 (attached).

Area of concentration 1: The right to health and access to health services

The National Legal and Political Framework

1. What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantee the right of the elderly to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to supportive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative facilities and goods and services?

The answer: All elderly people in Jordan currently have free health insurance of the third degree, based on a decision issued by the Prime Ministry since 2006. The Ministry of Health is currently working on developing the final draft of the axis of integrating the elderly into the health benefits packages program in cooperation with the Health Insurance Department / Ministry of Health, which aims to determine the health benefits that the elderly benefit from and the percentages of financial coverage.

At the policy level, the National Strategy for the Elderly for the years 2018-2022 included the health axis for the elderly, which includes curative and preventive measures and the priorities that must be worked on to improve the health of the elderly. The Ministry of Health's strategy for the years 2018-2022 also included the issue of the elderly as one of the challenges facing the health sector in light of the expected increase in the number of the elderly in the future, and their need for the necessary health care.

2. What steps have been taken to ensure that all elderly people have access to affordable goods, care, and high-quality health services for the elderly without discrimination?

The answer: The same thing that was discussed in one question from this axis, by integrating all elderly people into free health insurance.

Also, during the Covid pandemic, the Ministry of Health took several measures that facilitated the elderly to obtain services:

- Providing a service to deliver medicines to the elderly and patients with chronic diseases at home through volunteers from the Ministry of Health.
- Providing the necessary medicines for the elderly residing in residential care homes.
- Taking PCR samples from the homes of the elderly by the mobile teams of the Ministry of Health.
- Taking PCR samples for the elderly from residential care homes.
- Vaccinating the elderly against COVID-19 in their homes through the mobile teams of the Ministry of Health.
- Vaccinating the elderly against COVID-19 in residential care homes.
- Intensifying inspection visits to residential care homes, in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Social Development.
- Providing medical advice to those who are requested from residential care homes, and resolving any health problems experienced by the elderly residing in these homes.

3. What data and research are available regarding the elderly's right to health and access to health care and services? Please explain how national or subnational data are disaggregated by gender, age, and dimensions of inequality, and what indicators are used to monitor the full realization of the right to health of the elderly.

The answer: The data provided by the Department of Statistics, including the population census of 2015, the Population and Family Health Survey 2017-2018, and the last field survey of the Department of Statistics in 2010, so we find a lack of health data and it is not updated. According to the results of the last field survey in 2010, the prevalence rate of blood pressure among the elderly 60+ reached 40.6%, and the rate of heart disease among the elderly 60+ reached 11.1%. But data such as those suffering from Alzheimer's do not exist, as well as data for those who suffer from functional difficulties are not available.

4. What steps have been taken to provide appropriate training to legislators, policymakers, and health and care workers on the right to health of the elderly?

The answer: In light of the urgent need to provide home health care services by qualified specialists to care for the elderly; in 2019, the Vocational Training Corporation provided a training program for "Care Aides/The Elderly and the Elderly", with the support of the Canadian project WE LEAD funded by Global Affairs Canada, and implemented by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), this program includes four training modules, one of which is on providing health care services to the infirm and the elderly. This program has been approved by the concerned authorities, and the Vocational Training Corporation has trained many specialists, with a total of (26) participants. These services are provided personally by the specialist, or through private care institutions.

Progressive realization and maximum use of available resources

What steps have been taken to align macroeconomic policies and measures with international human rights law, in order to use the maximum available resources to realize the right to health of the elderly, such as expanding fiscal space, adopting targeted measures, and international action?

The answer: Jordan began to attract international entities to support the issues of the elderly, including what was done by Help Age International, which cooperated with the Institute for Family and Child Health Care by providing curative and preventive health services. The Family Health Care Institute, through the outreach program, also conducts home visits to raise awareness and provide simple medical services for those cases who are unable to come to the Institute's clinic for treatment.

Also in this area, Jordan began, since 2018, to participate with the United Nations Working Group on Aging by submitting its contribution that includes its proposals and national priorities to the United Nations to participate internationally in drafting an international convention on the rights of the elderly. Jordan has answered a number of guiding questions about health, development, work, education, long-term care, palliative care, social protection and social security, freedom and independence. The national legal and legislative frameworks that guarantee the rights of the elderly were discussed, in addition to the normative elements that achieve this right, as well as the most important services that are provided and that guarantee non-discrimination on the basis of age in society.

Cooperation, equality and non-discrimination

5. What are the challenges faced by the elderly in their enjoyment of the right to health, including the impact of multiple discrimination and inequality on the basis of age, gender, disability, and other reasons?

The answer:

- The high cost of home care services.
- Although the elderly are included in health insurance coverage, there are not many medicines available in government hospitals and clinics.
- Many elderly people do not know about their inclusion in health insurance coverage.
- Lack of specializations such as geriatric nursing and geriatrics.
- However, there is no discrimination in their access to health care due to age. On the contrary, there is special treatment for them that takes into account their circumstances, as the Ministry of Health has rehabilitated health centers friendly to the elderly to take into account the special circumstances of this group and provide them with the best services.

6. What measures have been taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination on the basis of age, including laws, policies, practices, discriminatory social norms, and stereotypes that perpetuate health disparities among the elderly and prevent the elderly from having their right to health?

The answer: As previously mentioned, there is no discrimination in their access to health care due to age. On the contrary, there is special treatment for them that takes into account their circumstances. The Ministry of Health has rehabilitated health centers that are friendly to the elderly to take into account the special circumstances of this group and provide the best services for them.

7. What measures have been taken to ensure that the elderly are able to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including informed consent and decisions and decisions regarding their treatment and care?

The answer: Measures highlight the importance of providing curative health services such as medicines and vaccinations and the elderly's access to these services. Jordan attaches great importance to this category, more than any other group, in obtaining these services, given that this group is exposed to many chronic diseases.

8. What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms exist for the elderly to file complaints and seek compensation for the denial of their right to health?

The answer: There are no judicial mechanisms, as it has been clarified that the health aspect of the elderly is one of the most important aspects that Jordan is working to secure for the elderly, and that is if all the elderly 60 years and above are insured under the coverage of free health insurance. However, if an elderly person suffers a medical error, the judiciary intervenes in this matter, since it is subject to a penalty.

9. What mechanisms are in place to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of the elderly living in different geographic areas of the country in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of health laws, policies, programs and services that affect them?

The answer: During the preparation of the National Strategy for the Elderly for the years 2018-2022, panel discussions were held with the elderly in the various governorates of the Kingdom, and their opinions and demands were heard. Whereas, Health matters were among the most prominent issues that were focused on, and all the opinions they proposed were taken and included as priorities to work on.

Also, all plans and strategies that dealt with the issues of the elderly took into account in the various governorates of the Kingdom.

