**QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MIPAA IN TURKEY**

1. Please provide information as to how your Government has incorporated a human rights-based approach in the implementation framework of MIPAA and how this translated into concrete policies and normative actions? How does your Government monitor and evaluate the impact of MIPAA implementation on the enjoyment off all human rights by older persons?

***Full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons; achievement of secure ageing, which involves reaffirming the goal of eradicating poverty in old age and building on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons;***

In accordance with Law No 2022, elderly people who are of 65 years of age or over and in a dependent capacity with no relatives and no financial income have been entitled for pension since 1977. Within this scope, elderly persons over 65 with no financial income receive 610,32 Turkish Liras quarterly. Besides, if elderly people in need of care receive care support from one of their relatives, a financial aid of 830,84 TL is paid monthly to the care providing relatives. This can be deemed as one of the good practices for the concept of “Social State”.

Financial aids paid by Ministry of Labor and Social Security within the scope of Law No. 2022 on Retirement Pension Pays for Elderly Turkish Citizens who are of 65 years of age or over, in a dependent capacity with no relatives and no financial income, have been transferred to the Ministry of Family and Social Policy with the related provisions of Decree Law No. 633 of 2012.

**Life Homes for Older Persons**

The Project titled “Life Homes for Elderly Persons” was initiated with the purpose of rendering care services to elderly persons in homes named “Life Homes” taking into consideration the personal differences and in order to diversify the service models for the elderly.

In Life Homes, care services are provided to elderly persons who can fulfill their psychological, social or physical needs by themselves in Rest Homes, Nursing Homes and Rehabilitation Centers and are eligible for admission. Services in Life Homes aim improving living standards of elderly persons without isolating them from the rest of the society.

The organisations and institutions that are responsible and relevant with regard to coordination and implementation of the activities embedded in National Plan of Action on Ageing and the Situation of the Elderly have already been listed. Monitoring and evaluation of MIPAA focused activities of these organisations/institutions are made through annual monitoring and evaluation reports sent to Ministry of Family and Social Policy – General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly. Besides, other relevant institutions and organisations are obliged to send information about their activities to responsible institutions and organisations every year.

1. **How has your Government take into consideration the needs of specific groups of older persons in the implementation of MIPAA?**

Specific groups of older persons include pauper and/or disabled persons in need of care and sheltering.

**Services for elderly persons in need of care are as follows:**

**Rest Homes:** Rest homes provide services to elderly persons over 60 years old who do not have any chronic illnesses but are in need of special care.

Rest homes provide following services; sheltering, health care, helping residents solve psychological and social problems within the scope of psycho-social support, improving social relations, using spare times efficiently, nutrition, cleaning, social activities and other forms of social services.

Elderly care services are rendered by staff who received certificate from a course specialized on care or by personnel graduated from secondary or higher education. Physical conditions and service standards of public and private elderly care institutions have been enhanced and the buildings have been transformed to livable environments. The number of beds in existing institutions has been minimized and ultimate attention is given to increase the number of single rooms in newly built rest homes. Furthermore, healthy residents of rest homes are encouraged to participate in social and cultural activities such as excursions, cinema or handicrafts. On the other hand, meals in institutions are provided by private catering companies. Thus, meals for residents are prepared with more quality in more hygienic conditions. Lastly, Medical examination and treatment of rest home residents are performed in organized healthcare institutions; only general health controls are made in care institutions or rest homes.

**Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers for Elderly Persons:** These centers provide services to elderly persons over 60 years old who do not have any chronic illnesses but are in need of rehabilitation and special care.

Rehabilitation for elderly people is the entire efforts at determining current functional capacities, providing treatment services, improving the remaining functional capacities, supporting current physical, psychological, social and economic capacities of elderly people with permanent or temporary physical or mental disabilities at varying levels, either congenital or that arose as a result of a disease or accident, with the purpose of making them independent in their daily lives.

Accordingly, special care units were integrated to nursing homes, with the purpose of providing care and protection to bedridden elderly people (bedridden or disabled) over 60 years of age, who do not suffer from contagious or malignant tumor involving diseases that require continued treatment and who are mentally and psychologically healthy.

The fact that there elderly individuals who become bedridden or who require continued control due to physical or mental declines after they start to stay at nursing homes and, also, those who are in such situation at their homes and whose care has become difficult for their families required the provision of special care services. So; elderly persons in such conditions receive special care and rehabilitation services either in Nursing Homes and Rehabilitation Centers or in special rehabilitation units established in rest homes as a legal obligation.

The units in question admit bedridden elderly people over 60 years of age with visual, hearing or physical disabilities, who do not suffer from contagious or diseases that require continued treatment and who are mentally and psychologically healthy. Elderly persons who need continuous and special care services have priority in special care units and the units are, if applicable, designed as independent areas and located in the first floor of rest homes. Capacities of such units are designated by General Directorate of Services for PwD’s and Elderly Persons by taking into consideration the most appropriate conditions for the provision of health care services.

**A Novel Model for Rest Homes: Small and Cosy Homes:**

 “Small and Cosy Homes” were built in the garden of Adana Rest Home, Care and Rehabilitation Center as twin buildings with one floor. Only two elderly persons live at each home.

Furthermore, Service Centres for Elderly Persons have been set up within Municipalities. These centres provide various services with the purpose of ensuring that the elderly persons lead an independent life without being isolated from the society. The following centres are provided by these centres;

* Psychological Support Service
* Healthcare services under control of physicians and nurses
* Accompaniment and consultancy
* Social and cultural activities
* Celebrating special days and weeks
* Financial support services
* **Free Transportation Card for the Elderly Persons:** (Elderly persons are provided with a free transportation card which allow free of charge use of intracity municipality buses)
* **Hygiene and maintenance services:**
* ***General cleaning of homes:*** Sweeping, dusting, cleaning of windows, doors and door frames, general hygiene of kitchens, hygiene of toilets and bathrooms, washing up balconies.
* ***Meal cooking and washing up:*** cooking of three meals for the elderly persons and their guests and washing up the dishes once in a week.
* ***Health care services and body hygiene:*** providing body cleansing, hair and beard trimming and nail cutting to elderly persons with a disability or physical incapability in need of personal care.
* All kinds of indoor maintenance services are provided.
1. **Has your Government informed older persons about MIPAA and how are older persons participating in the implementation of MIPAA including in decision-making about MIPAA implementation?**

Our Government organises conferences and trainings on the National Plan of Action on Ageing and the Situation of Elderly Persons that can be deemed as an information activity in terms of MIPAA. Furthermore, we publish announcements on our Ministry’s official website about the activities on this issue.

***Empowerment of older persons to fully and effectively participate in the economic, political and social lives of their societies, including through income-generating and voluntary work:***

The relevant institutions and organisations, within the scope of activities carried out with regard to the above-written field of action of MIPAA, have been specified as Local Governments and Civil Society Organisations, and the responsible governmental institution as the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main objective of all these institutions and organisations has been set as ensuring participation of older persons to all levels of decision making processes and the action to be taken has been determined as it follows; “establishing assemblies for older persons in provinces, districts and/or villages and promoting participation of women in these assemblies”.

1. **What impact has MIPAA implementation had on equality and non-discrimination of older persons?**

Provision of a supportive environment with adequate facilities is among 3 priorities of National Plan of Action on Ageing and the Situation of Older Persons in Turkey. The issues of negligence, abuse and violence against older persons are tackled under this heading with Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the Plan of Action.

As defined by these articles;

* The objective of Article 24 is set as: elimination of all kinds of negligence, abuse and violence against elderly people. The action to be taken accordingly is; provision of vocational training to specialists working with elderly persons in order to help detecting abuse and negligence of elderly people and taking measures in this respect. The institution that has the main responsibility to implement this action line is defined as Ministry of Family and Social Policy and the relevant organizations and institutions to be cooperated are listed as: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Local Governments, Ministry of National Education, Universities, Directorate of Social Security Institution, trade bodies and civil society organizations.
* The objective of Article 25 is set as: elimination of all kinds of negligence, abuse and violence against elderly people. The action to be taken accordingly is; finalization of legal arrangements with the purpose of eliminating violence, negligence or abuse of elderly persons. The institution that has the main responsibility to implement this action line is defined as Ministry of Justice and the relevant organizations and institutions to be cooperated are listed as: Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Universities and civil society organizations.
* The objective of Article 26 is set as: provision of support and consultancy services against abuse of elderly people. The action to be taken accordingly is; preparation and implementation of programs in order to raise awareness on negligence, abuse and violence against elderly people and establishment of a denouncement mechanism. The institution that has the main responsibility to implement this action line is defined as Ministry of Family and Social Policy and the relevant organizations and institutions to be cooperated are listed as: Turkish Radio and Television Association, Council of Higher Education, Universities, civil society organizations and Radio and Television Supreme Council.
1. **What impact has MIPAA implementation had on the fulfilment of the right of older persons to an adequate standard of living?**

There are 3 priorities of national plan of action on ageing, which are namely;

- elderly people and development,

- increasing health and wellbeing at old age and

- provision of a supportive environment with adequate facilities.

Within the scope of these priorities, the topics, objectives and action lines are defined which will help ensuring active participation of older persons into social life and decision making processes without facing any discriminatory practices or social exclusion.

Furthermore, legislative arrangements are made in order to facilitate daily lives of older persons by means of planning physical conditions and making accessibility arrangements in dwellings of the elderly under coordination of Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation. Besides, financially deprived older persons are provided with the opportunity to live in affordable social dwellings.

1. **Please provide examples of best practices from a human rights perspective identified by your Government in the implementation, monitoring, review and appraisal of MIPAA.**
* Practices under Law No. 2022 on “Retirement Pension Pays for Elderly Turkish Citizens who are of 65 Years of Age or over, in a Dependent Capacity with no Relatives and no Financial Income”

***Services at Boarding Houses***

* Rest homes, nursing and rehabilitation centers for elderly persons, life homes for elderly persons, a novel model for rest homes: small and cozy homes, a novel model for rest homes: detached houses.

**One of the overstressed objectives in the field of older persons is “Ensuring the Society’s Awareness of Elderly People’s Authoritative, Wise and Productive Qualities and Other Contributions”. Within this context;**

* With the purpose of using leisure time affectively and improving communication and relations between generations; social, cultural and artistic activities by means of utilizing technology and transportation are encouraged.
* Awareness raising activities regarding ageing and elderly persons are encouraged both in written and visual media.
* Issues such as ageing, psychology of elderly persons, abuse of the elderly are included in formal and informal education programs in order to achieve intergenerational solidarity and respect for elderly persons.
* Elderly persons are encouraged to visit national parks, museums, state theaters. Concerned institutions and organisations are also encouraged to make required arrangements for elderly persons.
* preparatory programs for retirements are designed in order to increase knowledge and skills of individuals to enable them to pursue their activities and productive efforts following their active professional life and to ensure their adaptation to the retirement period,
* An additional provision has been added to National Plan of Action on Ageing on establishment of a “National Ageing Institute”.

**With regard to the objective of “Decreasing the Cumulative Effects of Risk Increasing Factors for Diseases and Dependence”;**

* With the purpose of improving and developing health at old age, regular health checks are made at home on demand and transportation to hospitals are made without any charges.
* A database will be created on ageing and elderly persons in order to plan and implement all services aimed at elderly persons affectively. The concerned database will be designed to include gender specific data and gender sensitive indicators.
* The model of home care service for elderly persons will be defined, standards of service provision will be established and home care services will be expanded.
* Emergency call centers will be set up in order to provide emergency services to elderly persons living at their own home. The system will be designed to operate through electronic assistance equipment.

***With regard to the objective of Employment Opportunities for All Elderly People Who Wish to Work, National Plan of Action on Ageing includes provisions on;***

* Supporting of elderly people who work in the agricultural sector through teaching of new agricultural techniques and technologies and sustaining of access to structural and financial services,
* Completion of necessary regulations within the scope of flexible working and retirement arrangements.

1. **Please provide information about the main challenges (such as institutional, structural and circumstantial obstacles) faced by your Government at the various levels of government (communal, provincial and national etc.) to fully respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of older persons in the implementation of MIPAA.**

Problems are faced in the following fields;

* Accessibility for older persons,
* Health care of older persons with health problems at their dwellings,
* Health care of older persons with health problems at their dwellings following a period of hospital care
* Financial situation of retirees due to reduction of salaries after retirement.