(Translated from Arabic)

**Centre for the Empowerment and Welfare of Older Persons**

**Questionnaire of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on best practices in the implementation of existing law related to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons**

1. **Name of the practice**

* Empowerment and welfare of older persons

2. **Areas concerned**

* An adequate standard of living
* Participation
* Education and training
* Care services (home-based care, day care, accommodation, long-term care, care focusing on pain relief, care staff and geriatric services, quality of care and availability of services)

3. **Type of practice**

* Policies (programmes, strategies, action plans on ageing)
* Institutional
* Regulatory
* Administrative practices
* Statistical data disaggregated by gender and age
* Training programmes
* Others: health care, social care, psychotherapy, entertainment programmes, social participation

4. **Level of implementation**

* At the level of society

5. **Please describe the practice, including its purpose, when and how it was adopted, how long it has been used, and its geographic scope**

* Description of practices:
* Provision of accommodation for older persons whose families are unable to look after them or who have no families to take care of them;
* Provision of appropriate health-care, social and psychological services;
* Provision of welfare services to older persons in their homes and among their families (home-based care);
* Raising families’ awareness and providing guidance on best practices relating to care for older persons;
* Integration of older persons into society in accordance with their capacities (training, educational and entertainment programmes);
* Provision of optimal care for older persons and protection of their social and moral rights.
* Adopted in 2003
* In all regions of the State of Qatar

6. **Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of the practice** (for instance national and local authorities, the private and public sectors, academia, civil society organizations, international or regional organizations, older persons themselves, among others)?

* Older persons themselves
* Local institutions
* Civil society organizations

7. **Which rights of older persons does the practice promote and protect?**

1. The right to life

2. The right to family life

3. The right to appropriate living conditions

4. The right to social insurance and social protection

5. The right to health

6. The right to self-realization

7. The right to housing

8. The right to effective participation

8. **How does the practice support such rights?**

 The practice develops and supports such rights in the following manner:

* Development of an appropriate environment and provision of comprehensive care under various programmes (day-care, home-based care, provision of accommodation for older persons who have no family to take care of them);
* Attending to the health of older persons by developing comprehensive physical and psychological health care, and by providing preventive and therapeutic services based on an integrated high-quality system;
* Promotion of an enhanced role for older persons in society and fostering a positive attitude towards them;
* Promotion of full and effective participation by older persons in all areas of public, political, cultural and economic life.

9. **Which groups of older persons** (for instance older women, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets and refugees), **if any, particularly benefit from the practice?**

* Persons aged 60 years or more

10. **How has the practice been assessed and monitored?**

* By conducting surveys among the beneficiaries of the practice
* By monitoring the authorities responsible for the practice

**Please provide specific information on the impact of the practice, with data and indicators, among others, if any.**

11. **What lessons do you believe could be learned from this practice? How could it be improved?**

 The following lessons have been learned from the practice:

 As the number of older persons increases, their needs also increase and become more diverse. As difficulties have been encountered in meeting those needs, the welfare of older persons has become an urgent issue. Societies address this phenomenon in different ways. Older persons enjoy a higher standing in traditional societies than in modern societies. Qatari society has been undergoing changes in many areas for some time. These changes have had a major impact, as a matter of course, on older persons in terms of the kind of care provided by the family and society. Multidimensional measures must therefore be taken to address issues related to ageing, and expertise in many areas is required.

 It could be improved on the basis of the following recommendations:

* Enactment of legislation to protect the rights of older persons in the State of Qatar and adoption of measures to promote their rights and preserve their dignity;
* Development of health care by establishing a geriatrics section in all health-care facilities and a centre for the empowerment and welfare of older persons;
* Expansion of the mobile units projects in order to provide basic services to older persons living with their families in all regions of the country that are currently deprived of such services;
* Encouragement of all parties in the State to offer facilities to older persons, particularly in diverse areas of their daily lives, including transactions and services;
* Reaffirmation of the importance of the family’s role in providing care for older persons; the family ranks first among the institutions that concern themselves with older persons;
* Activation of the project to establish a social day club for older persons with a view to creating a favourable social, cultural and sports environment for them;
* Listing of the qualifications and expertise of older persons (who are eager to work) in a database and compilation of information aimed at providing them with opportunities for employment, social development and continuous interaction with their social environment.

12. **How could this practice be a model for other countries?**

 By organizing extensive media campaigns to publicize the Centre for the Empowerment and Welfare of Older Persons and the services it provides, and by adopting a media policy aimed at promoting awareness of issues affecting older persons so as to develop positive attitudes among the general public to the welfare and protection of older persons.

 Please include in your submissions the name of the State/organization submitting the practice, as well as contact details.

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