**Questionnaire on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Social Protection**

**Questions for Member States:**

**1. Please provide information in relation to the existence of legislation and policies concerning mainstream and/or specific social protection programmes with regard to persons with disabilities, including:**

* **Institutional framework in charge of its implementation;**

The institutional framework responsible for the implementation of social protection programs in Egypt is the Ministry of Social Solidarity in collaboration with other relevant entities such as the ministries of Manpower, Health, Transportation, and Housing.

* **Legislative, administrative, judiciary and/or other measures aiming to ensure access of persons with disabilities to mainstream social protection programmes (e.g., poverty reduction, social insurance, health care, public work, housing);**

- Article (81) of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014: The State shall guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural, entertainment, sporting and educational rights of persons with disabilities and dwarves, strive to provide them with job opportunities, allocate a percentage of job opportunities to them, and adapt public facilities and their surrounding environment to their special needs. The State shall also ensure their exercise of all political rights and integration with other citizens in compliance with the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunities.

- Article (17) of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014: All citizens who do not benefit from the social insurance system have the right to social security, in a manner that ensures a decent life in the event of being incapable to provide for themselves and their families, as well as in cases of incapacity to work, old age or unemployment.

- Article (18) of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014: The State shall establish a comprehensive health insurance system covering all diseases for all Egyptians; and the Law shall regulate citizens' contribution to or exemption from its subscriptions based on their income rates.

- Article (27) of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014: The economic system aims at achieving prosperity through sustainable development and social justice so as to raise the real growth rate of the national economy and the standard of living, increase job opportunities, reduce unemployment rates and eliminate poverty.

- Article (80) of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014: The State shall ensure the rights of children with disabilities, their rehabilitation and their integration in the society.

- Article (10) of the Rehabilitation Act No. 39 of 1975, amended by Law No. 49 of 1981, stating: Five percent of the total number of employees in each unit of the state administration body, public bodies and public sector shall be allocated for disabled recipients of rehabilitation certificates, and these units fulfill the percentage referred to using the disabled residents living within their circles and registered in the related Manpower offices.

- Associations Act No. 84 of 2002: Imported production requirements, machines or devices for persons with disabilities are exempted from taxes and customs, and this also applies to all of the gifts or any aid from abroad subject to customs taxes or any other fees.

- The Social Security Act No. 87 of 2000: The Ministry of Social Solidarity shall provide security services for people who fit the definition of the word "Disabled", and according to the Social Security Law No. 30 of 1977 amended by Law No. 87 of 2000 "every person man or woman who has no husband or wife and unable to do any work to earn a living either due to disease or accident or case stayed with him since birth under the age of 65 years " are offered monthly security pension, on condition that the medical examination proved that the disability will make its owner weaker or lose the ability to work, whether there is a total or partial disability but its proportion is not less than 50%.

- Child Law No. 12 of 1996 amended by Law No. 126 of 2008:

* Health insurance services for disabled children who are born in 1996 and beyond, according to articles 27- 28-29 of the Act.
* Article No. 86 of the Child Act No. 12 of 1996 as amended by Law No. 126 of 2008 " Shall be exempted from all types of taxes and fees prosthetic and assistive devices, spare parts, tools and production equipment, and means of transport for the use of the child with a disability and his rehabilitation, and the use of these devices and means is banned for non-disabled without appropriate reason, and any person violating this shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year and a fine of not less than two thousand pounds and not more than ten thousand pounds, and confiscation.

- The Minister of Social Solidarity Decree No. 209 of 2014, which replaces the Social Solidarity Act No. 237, stating the eligibility of the citizen with a disability to get monthly assistance in the case his age exceeded eighteen years old and he is suffering from a deficit estimated by at least 50%, and the child with a disability, whatever the type disability is and the degree of seriousness, on condition that the family income shall not exceed the minimum wage.

- The Minister of Social Solidarity Decree No. 270 of 2014 modifying the contribution rates to get the prosthetic devices.

- Health Insurance Act for students which provides for the submission of prosthetic devices including headphones and eyeglasses for free once every two years through the Health Insurance Authority.

- The Minister of Trade and Industry Decree No. 15 of 2013 to form a permanent technical committee to improve the quality of prosthetic devices industry in Egypt to match the international medical standards.

- Central Agency for Organization and Administration, and the Minister of Finance Decree dated April 2012 on the adoption of a number of 24 636 financial degree for the jobs of the disabled to meet the 5% rate (in response to the request of the National Council for Disability Affairs), but there are huge numbers that did not get jobs because of the inflated administrative apparatus of the State workers, lack of the State resources, and the weakness of the State budget as a result of the current circumstances in Egypt.

- Periodic Book No. 11 of 2011 issued by the Central Agency for Organization and Administration on activating the procedures of the fulfillment of the special rate of 5% established for persons with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of Rehabilitation Law No. 39 of 1975 amended by Law No. 49 of 1982.

- El-Behira Governor Decree No. 513 of 2013 dated 05/05/2013 on the allocation of 5% of the housing units set up by the governorate and affiliated local units for people with disabilities, whatever the name of housing projects to be and according to the conditions and regulations in force.

- On 30/10/2010, The Minister of Health approved the following:

* Reduction of the primary medical examination fees for people with disabilities to the amount of twenty-five pounds, and those fees are inclusive of all tests. And the medical examination shall be done in all medical committees on the scope of the Republic
* The medical examination fees to determine the current health status of the person with disability, and issue the rehabilitation certificate is only fifteen pounds, with the exemption of all fees of tests necessary to confirm the diagnosis.
* **Creation of disability-specific programmes (such as disability pensions, mobility grants or others);**

- In March 2015, the Ministry of Social Solidarity launched "Dignity Program" under the auspices of the Cabinet Presidency for the disbursement of pensions for people with disabilities and the elderly. The program aims to create social and fair protection network targeting groups that suffer from poverty in all its forms, and categories that do not have the ability to work and production, such as seniors of 65 years and older, or those who have total impairment or disability.

- The Minister of Transport Decree No. 18 of 2005 of to reduce about 75% of the current Travel costs in regular degrees of the railway trains for people with disabilities, the blind and their companions.

- Instructions issued by public transport Authority No. 15 of 2005 to allow the blind and people with disabilities to move free of charge on public transport authority lines of fifty piasters category.

- The Board of the Underground decision No. 444/1 - 321-2006 to deal with and give people with disabilities the same cuts given to the blind by travelling on the Underground lines if they are registered in the relevant entity and have a disability card from the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and these cuts are up to 92% of the value of the cost of subscriptions.

- Reduction of airline tickets under a disability identification card.

* **Fiscal adjustments or other similar measures.**

- Imported production requirements, machines or devices for persons with disabilities are exempted from taxes and customs, and this also applies to all of the gifts or any aid from abroad subject to customs taxes or any other fees.

- Customs exemption for people with disabilities' cars up to 25 thousand pounds.

**2. Please provide information on how persons with disabilities are consulted and actively involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection programmes.**

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity involves persons with disabilities and the associations representing them in the consultation on the project laws related to them, including for example, the development project of the Rehabilitation Act and the draft of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. Also, social protection programs for persons with disabilities in Egypt are designed according to the analysis of complaints and requests presented to the ministry.

**3. Please provide information in relation to difficulties and good practices on the design, implementation and monitoring of mainstream and/or specific social protection programmes with regard to persons with disabilities, including:**

* **Conditions of accessibility and the provision of reasonable accommodation;**

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity definitely needs to take into account the Ministerial Decree No. 303 of 2003 on Egyptian code for the design of the external blanks and buildings for the use of persons with disabilities, it has been guided by in the establishment of the new rehabilitation projects listed in the five-year investment plan of the state and is under implementation in the projects that have been created previously.

- A number of public transport buses were fitted with an audio alert for people with visual impairment to alert for the next station name.

- Ten public transport buses were adapted for the use of persons with Disabilities; however, we note that they do not match the specifications and accessibility standards for many physical disabilities.

- Chairs next to doors in the Underground cars were provided with special posters to educate passengers that those chairs are dedicated to people with disabilities.

- The National Council for Disability Affairs - in collaboration with young software developer – developed software for the visually impaired that can help them recognize the banknotes through an application installed on their mobile phones.

* **Consideration of the specific needs of persons with disabilities within the services and/or benefits of existing programmes;**

- The special needs of persons with disabilities are partially taken into account through specific social protection programs such as disability pensions and customs exemptions for people with disabilities cars.

- Despite the proliferation of health services organizations to cover all geographic areas, but they lack the standards and specifications that enable them to provide adequate health services for people with disabilities. A person with disability find them difficult to access and there is lack of medical equipments, adequate training for service providers and lack of accessibility.

- Although people with disabilities have the right to work by laws and there are attempts to activate the 5% rate, but the high unemployment among Egyptians, the high number of job seekers and the limited employment opportunities are barriers for people with disabilities from accessing real job opportunities.

- Lack of accessibility and the provision of reasonable accommodation at workplaces due to the poor resources and high cost of accessibility which prevents equal opportunities, in addition to the lack of training programs to educate employers and employees on types of disability, their needs and how to deal with them and provide the reasonable accommodation to ensure their success and their productivity at work.

* **Difficulties experienced by persons with disabilities and their families in fulfilling requirements and/or conditions for accessing social protection programmes;**

Persons with disabilities experience difficulties in accessing the appropriate medical evaluation due to the multiplicity of disability definitions and disability assessments used to determine eligibility, in addition to the lack of advertisement for the service, its locations and how to get it in the audio, visual and printed media for those who do not know how to use the Internet.

* **Consideration to age, gender and race or ethnic-based differences and possible barriers;**

Some of the social protection programs for persons with disabilities in Egypt are sensitive to age and possible barriers, there is what is intended for children under the age of 18 years, such as child pension and health insurance for school students, and there is what is dedicated according to the degree of disability such as security pension for persons with disabilities whose impairment ratio is about 50%.

* **Conflicts between the requirements and/or benefits of existing programmes, and the exercise by persons with disabilities of rights such as the enjoyment of legal capacity, living independently and being included in the community, or work;**

There is a conflict between the requirements and / or benefits of existing programs and the exercise of persons with disabilities of the rights that lies in the lack of consistency and diversity among medical assessments of disability, classifications and definitions used.

* **Allocation of grants to personal budgets;**

Not found

* **Disability-sensitive training and awareness-raising for civil servants and/or external partners;**

At the level of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the General Administration of rehabilitation staff receives training programs specializing in disabilities. But for the rest of the ministries and entities, the National Council for Disability Affairs addressed a range of ministries and asked them to allocate offices to deal with people with disabilities and offered to train their staff on the etiquette of dealing with people with disabilities, and the council is working to implement them.

* **Existence of complaint or appeal mechanisms.**

Complaints and petitions are served by completing an electronic form through the Ministry of Social Solidarity website or the E-Government portal site. Ministry of Social Solidarity also allocates a hotline number 16439 to receive complaints, suggestions and inquiries.

**4. Please provide any information or data available, disaggregated by impairment, sex, age or ethnic origin if possible, in relation to:**

* **Coverage of social protection programmes by persons with disabilities;**

Due to the lack of a comprehensive Survey and accurate statistics on the numbers of persons with disabilities in Egypt and their classifications, the coverage of social protection programs for persons with disabilities lack the data that enables to target them properly.

* **Rates of poverty among persons with disabilities;**

Statistics in the World Development Report of 1999 of the World Bank indicate that persons with disabilities make nearly from 15 % up to 20% of the poorest people in developing countries. Moreover, the World Bank report for 2011 indicates that 650 million people live with disabilities, of whom 80% live currently in developing countries. Due to the lack of accurate statistics on the numbers of persons with disabilities in Egypt and their classifications, there is no statistics that indicate poverty rates among persons with disabilities, knowing that the proportion of population below the poverty line account for about 40% of the total census of the population of the Arab Republic of Egypt, according to the latest report to discuss the income and expenditure at the end of 2013 from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics.

* **Additional costs or expenses related to disability.**

Despite the fact that the Egyptian government indirectly bears part of the additional costs related to disability through some of the programs that facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to care, health insurance, assistive devices and mobility. However, persons with disabilities bear the largest proportion of the additional costs and expenses related to disability especially with regard to prosthetic devices and medical treatment, as these programs only cover people with disabilities who are covered by health insurance.

**5. Please provide information in relation to the eligibility criteria used for accessing mainstream and/or specific social protection programmes with regard to persons with disabilities, including: Definition of disability and disability assessments used for eligibility determination;**

* **Consistency of the eligibility criteria among different social protection programmes;**

There is no consistency between the eligibility criteria used in the various social protection programs due to the multiplicity of definitions of disability. For example, there is a definition according to the Rehabilitation Act and there is a definition according to the Social Security Act in addition to the multiple medical assessments and classifications used.

* **Use of income and/or poverty thresholds;**

Social protection programs use income and poverty thresholds and they set a minimum income for providing the service, for example, social solidarity programs require that the person with disability does not have an insurance pension, or has a pension lower than the social security pension.

* **Consideration of disability-related extra costs in means-tested thresholds.**

Disability related extra costs in means-tested thresholds are not taken into consideration.