



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

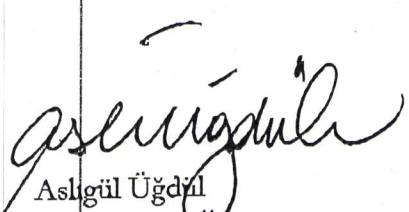
Ref No.: 570.30/2010/BMCO DT/715

25 January 2010

Dear Ms. Special Rapporteur,

With reference to the Note dated 20 November 2009 (Ref: POVERTY 2009 ER), I would like to bring to your kind attention the responses of the relevant Turkish authorities to the questionnaire on social protection of older persons.

Please accept, Ms. Special Rapporteur, the assurances of my highest consideration.


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Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative

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26 JAN. 2010

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T.C.
SOSYAL GÜVENLİK KURUMU BAŞKANLIĞI
Strateji Geliştirme Başkanlığı

Answers of Questionnaire on Social Protection of Older Persons Addressed to Governments

(i) The legal and institutional framework

1. (a), (b)

For the individuals who are deemed to be insurance holder with Social Security and General Health Insurance Law for the first time; old - age pension shall be granted in 58 for females and 60 for males. Minimum day requirement for old-age pension is 9000 days for self-employed and civil servants and 7200 days for workers.

The insurance holders, who have a sickness or invalidity to the extent requiring to be deemed invalidity pension before the starting to work for the first time and therefore cannot benefit from the invalidity pension, they can be benefit from old-age pension after minimum fifteen years insurance period and paying minimum 3960 days of invalidity, old - age and survivors insurance premiums.

Based on the examination of reports and the medical documents which are prepared duly by the healthcare providers authorized by the Institution, the insurance holders whose rate of loss in working power is found by the Institution Health Committee to be;

- a) between 50% and 59%, shall have the right to receive old - age pension provided that they are insurance holders for a minimum of 16 years and have notified 4320 days,
- b) between 40% and 49%, shall have the right to receive old - age pension provided that they are insurance holders for a minimum of 18 years and have notified 4680 days, of invalidity, old - age and survivors insurance premiums. These may be held subject to control examination.

The age limit shall be applied as 55 for the insurance holders who continuously or in rotations at underground works of mining workplaces determined by the Ministry.

Insurance holders, who have passed the age of 55 and are determined to suffer from premature aging, shall benefit from old - age pension, provided that they fulfill conditions other than age.

After the enactment of Social Security and General Health Insurance Law, one fourth of her premium days of female insurance holder who have disabled child to the extent of being in need of permanent care of another person, shall be added to the sum of number of her premium days and in this way, she can retire early. These added periods shall be subtracted from the retirement age limits.

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In order to benefit from the old - age pensions mentioned in the above paragraphs, it is obligatory to terminate the connection of the insurance holders after quitting the work he/she was working at, of the insurance holders after submitting a written request following declaring whether to end the activity subject to insurance, and of insurance holders after taking approval from the competent authority to transfer to retirement upon their requests. In order to put the insurance holders stated on old - age pension, it is also obligatory that they should not have premiums or any kind debts related with premiums due to his/her own insurance status, including the universal health insurance premium, as of the date of written request.

(c) It's a contributory programme.

2. Old- age pension programme is established by Social Security and General Health Insurance Law, numbered 5510.

3. (a) Design of the programme started within the framework of the urgent action plan announced by the 58th government in November 2002. A regulation thought to be made about the social security area was presented to the evaluation of the social partners and public opinion with the book called "Proposal of Social Security Reform" in May 2007. The proposals made by the social partners added the draft of the law. After this, Draft Law was submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly Plan and Budget Commission. The commission was presented to the General Assembly. Then Social Insurance and Universal Health Insurance Law came into force in May 2008.

Implementation of the programme is done by the Social Security Institution.

The monitoring concerned with the implementation of the Law is conducted by inspectors of SSI tasked with auditing and control.

(b) Civil society organizations are represented in the Management Board of Social Security Institution. A member of employers, a member of employees, a member of public officials, a member of self-employed, a member of people get income or salary from Institution are represent in the Management Board.

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According to the charts above, 16.06 percent of GDP constituted for the programme in 2008.

7. The program is operated with the funding sources that are the premiums taken from the employees and employers. Also, the State contributes to premium at a rate of one fourth of the invalidity, old - age and survivors insurances and universal health insurance premium collected by the Institution per month.

8. According to the October 2009 data, the number of uncovered people is 13.588.249.

9. The old - age pensions of the insurance holders shall equal to the amount to be found by the average monthly earning to be determined in accordance with the following provisions multiplied with the replacement rate.

Average monthly earning is thirty times the average daily earning, calculated by the sum of insurance holder's earnings subject to premium, found by updating with the update coefficient realized every year, for the years passed from the year of the earning up to the date of requesting pension, divided by the total paid premium days excluding the nominal service period and actual service period increment.

Replacement rate shall be applied as 2% for each 360 days of total paid premium days of the insurance holder, passed subject to invalidity, old - age and survivors insurances. Periods less than 360 days shall be considered proportionally in this calculation. However, the replacement rate shall not be over 90%.

10. All the salaries and incomes for beneficiaries pay via banks.

11. SSI has internet website which includes electronic applications for all necessary procedures and information related with pensions, general health insurance and non-contributory payments. Also SSI's website has summarized English version. All news and innovations on social security system publish on the website.

Also, provisional directorates prepare brochures, booklets and posters for delivering information to their clients.

12. N/A

13. All the pensioner has right to benefit from general health insurance.

SSI pays their salary and income of the people who above certain age or who are handicap or disable in their home

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(ii) Programme costs and coverage

4. PENSIONERS

		2008	2009 October
	-File	8.045.815	8.429.850
	-Person	8.746.703	9.094.189
	Old-age Pension	5.918.007	6.176.192

According to 2009 October data, 6.176.192 people get the old age pension from the Social Security Institution of Turkey.

5. Turkey's old-age pension programme is national therefore all regions are covered by the programme.

6.

Years	Pension Payments (Thousand TL)
2008	39 59.136.5
2009	34 56.259.3

The annual budget of the program in 2008 and 2009 are respectively 59.136.539 and 56.259.334.

Year	Term	GDP (Million TL)	GDP (Million \$)
2008	Annual	950.098	741.754

The GDP of Turkey in 2008 is 950.098 Million TL.

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14. There are Monitoring and Evaluation Units under Social Insurances General Directorate and General Health Insurance General Directorate of SSI. The missions of this unit are;

- Collection of data on social security system and determining the trends
- Providing information on social security system for stakeholders, social partner and public.
- Data sharing
- Coordination of control officer and inspection of workplaces in the scope insurance via control officer,
- Coordination of provisional directorates

Also, Guidance and Inspection Board serve as main inspection body of SSI. The Inspectors are responsible for sectoral inspections and guidance activities for employee and employer's side.

15. ALO 170 is a hotline of SSI to provide information and to get complain and notice on social security, mainly on unregistered work issues. The citizens can apply to ALO 170 and also can send e mails to take information.

The citizen can always make official and written complaint petition to central and provisional units. The SSI has to answer all application in a 15 days period, no matter which way use to deliver it to SSI.

Consultation Units have been established in provisional and sub-provisional directorates.

16. If a citizen complain about a staff who responsible for the implementation via methods listed above, Guidance and Inspection Board appointed an inspector and the inspector has right to investigate the situation and offer a punishment.

17. N/A

18. N/A