**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:**

**"Involvement of the elderly who are unable to work in economic activity" Initiative**

**2. Area concerned:**

 Discrimination (e.g. legal/institutional framework, access to facilities and services, etc.)

 Violence and abuse

 Adequate standard of living (e.g. resource availability, housing, etc.)

 Independence and autonomy (e.g. legal guardianship, accessibility, etc.)

 Participation

 Social protection (e.g. social security, incl. pension)

 Education, training and lifelong learning

 Care (home, family or institutional care, long-term care, palliative care, geriatric services, quality of care and availability of services, care workers, etc.)

**3. Type of practice:**

 Legal (Constitution, law, etc.)

 Policy/Programme/Strategy/Action Plan on Ageing

 Institution

 Regulation

 Administrative practice

 Case law/jurisprudence

 Disaggregated statistical data by age/gender

 Training programme

 Other (please specify):....................................

**4. Level of implementation:**

 National

 Local (Sub-national, community, urban/rural area)

 Other (please specify):....................................

**5. Please describe the practice, including a) its purpose; b) when and how it was adopted; c) how long it has been used/implemented; and d) its geographic scope.**

The aim of this initiative is to **decrease early retirement and empower the elderly**; the social protection sector strategy (2011-2016) emanating from Qatar National Vision 2030 focused on creating an enabling environment for older people through the development of a comprehensive pension plan that includes the following points:

1. Promotion and instilling positive attitudes they have towards the various types of work, in which five interrelated projects have been identified for career support, including development of an extensive database of available jobs and provision of appropriate training on the use of such database which also includes information on disadvantaged vulnerable groups. This initiative also includes conducting awareness campaigns about the importance of work, evaluating and studying how to strengthen and improve the existing economic empowerment programs, and conducting special programs to ensure and facilitate the transition of elderly people from retirement to work.
2. Expanding the participation of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels.
3. Development of the law regulating social, economic and health aspects of the elderly.

**6. Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of such practice?** For instance, national and local authorities; private and public sector; academia; civil society organizations; international or regional organizations; older persons themselves, among others. 4

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs supervises on this initiative in cooperation and coordination with other actors concerned with the elderly including Qatar Foundation for Elderly People Care (IHSAN), the General Authority for Retirement and Social Insurance Authority, and Hamad Medical Corporation (rehabilitation unit).

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

Integration and economic and social empowerment in the community, achieve effective and positive participation of older persons in the development, and labor force and benefiting from their expertise in economic and social reconstruction.

**8. How does the practice promote or protect such rights?**

Economic and social empowerment of the elderly people is one of the most important demands of this group, as it reduces the challenges they may be exposed to; Economic Empowerment and provision of job opportunities for retired people protect them from poverty.

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

This initiative aims at involvement of the elderly people of both sexes in the labor force and benefiting from their experiences and skills, however it also focuses on the elderly persons of low income.

**10. How has the practice been assessed and monitored? Please provide specific information on the impact of the practice, with data, indicators, among others, if any.**

In order to evaluate this initiative, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in cooperation and coordination with The general retirement and social insurance authority developed action plan to strengthen the pension system and social security to include workers in the private sector; the plan also developed the and objectives that should be achieved at the end of the first phase of Qatar's strategy.

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| starting point | Limited coverage of the pension system, 16.7% of households living for low-income elderly persons |
| 2016 objectives  | Expanding the coverage of the pension system and reducing the number of low-income families supported by elderly persons by half |

The state has adopted a comprehensive framework for the pension system to protect citizens from the risk of poverty after ageing.

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

Economic empowerment promotes opportunities of integration of the elderly people in the community, and reduce the effects of inflation on the standard of living of the elderly, especially low-income people.

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

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