

**Research analysis on the promotion and protection of the rights of
older persons in the context of climate change by the
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

INFORMATION

With regard to paragraph 1, we note that adverse climate change has a direct and indirect impact on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by the elderly. The main negative climate changes relevant to our country are:

- a) Drought
- b) Floods and landslides
- c) Global warming

Below is the consideration of the direct impact of the aforementioned adverse climate changes on the elderly.

1- Drought:

- ✓ Nutrition - food, as well as lack of clean water, degradation of arable land, scarcity, other nutritional problems;
- ✓ Health - older people find it more difficult to adapt to climate change than people of other ages;
- ✓ Information - older people face certain technical limitations. This is due to their limited ability to use new technologies. An example of this is a drip water system;
- ✓ Financial Difficulties - seniors may find it difficult to acquire new technologies in exchange for a monthly pension.

2- Floods and landslides:

- ✓ Limited access to information and to modern technology - elderly people, especially those living alone, may have difficulty preparing for natural disasters or being warned in advance to leave their homes on time, because some older people have limited access to the media. Many refuse to leave their homes because of conservatism and unwillingness to change. They are slower to respond to disasters than people of other ages.

3- Global warming:

- ✓ Health - As the temperature rises, the elderly have increased blood, respiratory and nervous problems.

Examples of the indirect effects of climate change include the migration of young family members to places other than those mentioned above, the loneliness of older people at home and the loss of sources of income.

Regarding paragraph 2, we inform that currently there is no legislation or strategy in our country to address the difficulties associated with the negative impact of climate change on older people. However, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Social Services" can be cited as an example of legislation on social protection of the elderly. According to the law, the goal of social services is to prevent situations that worsen the living standards of citizens, including the elderly, complicate their socio-psychological situation, lead to isolation from society, and also to provide social services to those in need who are in difficult living conditions.

With regard to paragraph 3, we inform that the responses to the negative impacts of climate change on older people are provided in paragraph 1.

In connection with paragraph 4, we note that the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BP Exploration (Caspian Sea) Limited and a Protocol of Intent was signed with the United Nations Population Fund to conduct joint population development and detailed demographic researches. During the five-year project, the parties will carry out joint activities in the field of population development and demographic research in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the preparation of demographic forecasts, the application of advanced forecasting methodology and the formation of national human resources with the involvement of Charles University in the Czech Republic. The impact of climate change on population and demography will also be examined.

Regarding paragraph 5, we inform that in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the approval of the "Rules for the provision of social services at home (mobile)", social services are provided at home (mobile) to single elderly people and elderly couples in need of social assistance. Home (mobile) social service is provided by a social worker and a social service provider, depending on the nature of the service.

With regard to paragraph 6, we note that a technical assistance project between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Population Fund "Building a society for all ages: promoting the welfare of the elderly in Azerbaijan through active aging" (March 2019 - March 2021) approved by the Order No. 236 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been launched. The goal of the project is to strengthen state care for the elderly, meet their material and spiritual needs, ensure access to social and medical services to ensure decent living conditions, and support the adaptation of appropriate policy instruments to ensure social inclusion and integration of the elderly population.

The project is being implemented in three main components (development of an Active Aging Index to assess and measure the active and healthy aging of older people, raising awareness using traditional and modern communication tools to promote active aging, integrated social services for the elderly). In connection with the implementation of the project, persons over 65 years old were identified as target groups. The project

envisages the creation of a pilot center in Mingachevir and Barda to ensure the integration of older people into public life. The centers will work in three areas - education, health and creativity, in accordance with the interests of older people. These areas include financial literacy of the elderly, computer skills, services to promote the effective use of modern information and communication technologies, measures to protect physical and mental health, the creation of appropriate conditions for effective leisure activities, the availability of a library, gym and training room.

With regard to paragraph 7, it would be more appropriate for stakeholders to consult with the elderly to learn about their specific needs in developing climate support plans that promote the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of older persons. These plans should be implemented with the participation of older people.