**Maldives’ responses to the Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/44/7 on human rights and climate change**

1. **Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of older persons. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.**
   1. Maldives is one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts on climate change, mainly due to its low-lying nature and other geographical features, environmental and socio-economic factors such as smallness and disbursed nature of islands and their high exposure to environmental degradation and to natural disasters. Additionally, economic vulnerability due to limited ability to exploit economies of scale, limited natural resources, low diversified economy, dependence on narrow range of exports, and high dependence on imports of strategic goods are making Maldives amongst the most vulnerable countries to face climate change impacts.
   2. Climate change is undeniably the greatest challenge of our time. It cuts across all development agendas of humankind such as food, water and energy. Its implications also cut across gender and social issues. As an island state, we are greatly concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups such as elderly persons. Climate change hugely undermines our efforts to enhance the rights and provide better services to vulnerable groups.
   3. Maldives is severely exposed to risks posed by intensifying extreme weather events such as, droughts, flooding and storm surges resulting widespread damages to properties, infrastructure and sometimes to the people. These factors threaten livelihoods, food, water and energy security and this has a disproportionate effect on the aging and aged population due to factors such as age, mobility and dependence.
   4. For instance, there are cases where communities from some islands have been relocated to other islands mainly due to environmental degradation issues such as severe erosion and salinization of ground water. The elderly people of these communities face challenges while adjusting and integrating into host and new communities.
2. **Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that addresses the nexus between climate change and the rights of older persons. In particular, please share any information related to policies that ensure the participation of older persons in the design, planning and implementation and monitoring of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; learning from the knowledge and experience of older persons; as well as supporting the independence and autonomy of older persons. Please note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments, including their means of implementation.**
   1. The Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework is the principle policy document that addresses and mainstreams climate change issues in the country. One of the guiding principles for the Maldives Climate Change Policy is ‘Ensuring Intergenerational Equitability.’ Hence, at all stages of the formulation of this policy framework, and implementation of climate actions, priority is given to ensure equitable engagement between population groups through recognition of the unique nature of each atoll, communities, diversity of needs and access to opportunities, services and good. Particular attention is also paid towards respecting human rights, the rule of law, gender equality and vulnerable communities. In addition, the Government has drafted a special Climate Change Bill to enhance implementation of climate actions in the country. The Bill is currently under discussions at the Parliament and is expected to be passed soon.
   2. Furthermore, under existing mechanisms, an environmental impact assessment must be carried out for any new development project. The assessment includes evaluating the socio-economic impacts of the project to the communities and therefore during the assessment, consultations are undertaken with different community groups including elderly persons.
3. **Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how the adverse effects of climate change have affected older persons, taking into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. discrimination based on a combination of multiple grounds, including disability, gender, race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality and migration status) – including in older age cohorts.**

* 1. Data and research relating to impacts of climate change on older persons is limited and no specific study or assessments has been done so far to identify and document climate change impacts on older persons.

1. **Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of older persons.**
   1. Currently, there are no such mechanisms or tools in place.
2. **Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the human rights of older persons in the context of the adverse effects of climate change, including any age-appropriate or sensitive support services that are provided.**
   1. Good Practices:

* Climate policies ensures inclusivity by including the ageing population in decision-making and relevant consultations.
* Lessons, good practices and local knowledge from elderly are utilized while addressing climate challenges such as building resilience and developing adaptation efforts.
  1. Challenges:
* Older people may be physically, financially and emotionally less resilient to dealing with adverse effects of climate change than the rest of the population. Old age also results in reduced capacities for coping independently, hence better facilities and services need to be established to address these issues especially within outer islands.
* Proper data and information are not available to understand the impacts of climate change on older persons and how their rights could be protected while facing climate challenge.

1. **Please include examples and good practices that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that are implemented in close consultations with and with the active involvement of older persons, including through their representative organizations.**

N/A

1. **Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of older persons.**

N/A

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31st December 2020