**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**

**Response by Ireland**

1. **Name of the practice:**

The adoption and implementation of the National Positive Ageing Strategy.

1. **Areas concerned:**

Discrimination

Participation

Care

1. **Type of practice:**

The adoption and implementation of the Policy/Programme/Strategy/Action Plan on Ageing.

1. **Level of implementation:**

National

1. **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 National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) was published on 24th April 2013. It provides the blueprint for a whole of Government and whole of society approach to planning for an ageing society. The Strategy provides a vision for an age-friendly society and includes four National Goals (participation, health, security, research) and underpinning objectives to provide direction on the issues that need to be addressed to promote positive ageing.

1. **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 organisations; international or regional organisations; older persons themselves, among others.**

The National Positive Ageing Strategy was developed by a Cross-Departmental Group (CDG). An NGO Liaison Group comprising representatives of twelve national-level non-governmental organisations representing the interests of older people was also established to assist the CDG during the development of the National Positive Ageing Strategy. A public consultation process, which represented the most comprehensive and wide-ranging consultation exercise ever between Government and older people in Ireland was also carried out. Government Departments, other statutory agencies at a national and local level and the statutory, voluntary and private sectors must now take their lead from the National Positive Ageing Strategy to inform their planning and service delivery into the future.

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

The priority is to implement the National Positive Ageing Strategy and to drive the Government's agenda to enable people as they grow older to maintain and improve their physical, social and mental well-being and to live in their homes and communities for as long as possible. The UN Principles for Older Persons which are independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity are the operating principles underpinning the Strategy.

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

The National Positive Ageing Strategy addresses the broader determinants of health and, therefore, is a new departure in policy-making for ageing in Ireland that will address the following priority areas;

* + Healthy ageing
  + Health and personal social services
  + Carers
  + Employment and retirement
  + Education and lifelong learning
  + Volunteering
  + Cultural and social participation
  + Transport
  + Financial security
  + Housing
  + The built environment
  + Safety and security
  + Elder abuse

1. **What groups of older persons, (for instance, older women, persons with disabilities, persons of Afriocan 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 Strategy applies to all older people.

1. **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.**

The 2011-2016 Programme for Government committed to completing and implementing the National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) so that older people are recognised, supported and enabled to live full and independent lives. The Health priorities for 2015 reiterate Government’s commitment to implementing the Strategy. A key objective of the Strategy is to change the mindsets of decision makers across Government agencies and to raise the priority that is given to the concerns of older people. The Department of Health is examining options to improve engagement between stakeholders and relevant Departments and Agencies Implementation is accordingly an ongoing process.

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

The National Positive Ageing Strategy seeks to create a shift in mind-set in how we, collectively and individually, conceptualise ageing and what needs to be done to promote positive ageing. To achieve the goals of an age-friendly society in in the years ahead, we must start planning today.

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

The Vision Statement of The National Positive Ageing Strategy seeks to foster a shared understanding across Government and all sectors of society about the meaning of positive ageing for older people and to direct and guide policy and service delivery towards that purpose, and reads as follows:

***“Ireland will be a society for all ages that celebrates and prepares properly for individual and population ageing. It will enable and support all ages and older people to enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential. It will promote and respect older people’s engagement in economic, social, cultural, community and family life, and foster better solidarity between generations. It will be a society in which the equality, independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older people are pursued at all times.”***