**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:**

1. Universal Basic Retirement Pension to all Mauritians aged 60 years and above
2. Access to Free Health Care

**2. Area concerned:**

1. Social Protection
2. Care

**3. Type of practice:**

* Policy/Programme/Strategy/Action Plan on Ageing

**4. Level of implementation:**

* National

**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.**

1. The purpose of the Universal Basic Retirement Pension and access to Free Health Care is to ensure the socio-economic integration and health of elderly persons.
2. The Basic Retirement Pension and Free Health Care have been in force for some 35 years.
3. They apply to all elderly persons aged 60 years and above of the Republic of Mauritius.

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

* National Authorities are involved in the development and implementation of the abovenamed practices.

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

* The practices help to promote the Rights of Elderly persons to Social Protection and health care.

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

1. The Basic Retirement Pension ensures a reasonable income to support the elderly during their retirement age when there will be a drastic fall in their revenue.
2. Easy access to health care ensures that elderly persons enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

**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 streets and refugees, among other groups),**if any, particularly benefit from the practice?**

* All elderly persons aged 60 years and above irrespective of gender, disability or ethnic groups benefit from these best practices.

**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.**

* According to the Global Age Watch Index 2015 carried out by Help Age International, on 96 countries, Mauritius has been classified on the 1st position in Africa and 42nd globally in terms of quality of life and well-being of elderly persons. According to the Index, Mauritius has been classified in the 9th position with regard to “Income Security” and has done even better than Switzerland (27th position) though it is classified in the first position overall.

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

* The lesson drawn from these best practices is that they are a powerful weapon for alleviating poverty among the elderly population and ensuring their social integration and promoting healthy ageing.

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

* Other countries could implement their practices in a phased manner by:
1. targeting payment of their Retirement Pension initially to those aged 65 or 70 years.
2. setting initially the rate of the pension at a minimum level bearing into consideration the specific socio economic context of the country. Gradual increases in the rates of pension could be envisaged in the future on the basis of the economic progress of the country.
3. Implementing Free Health Care services to elderly persons by targeting initially needy elderly or those elderly with severe disabilities.

**22.12.15**