

*Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of  
Egypt to the United Nations Office, WTO  
and International Organizations  
in Geneva*

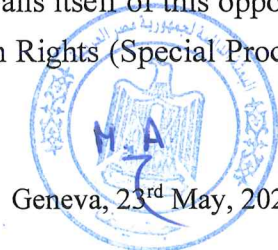


البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
ومنظمة التجارة العالمية والمنظمات الدولية  
الأخرى في جنيف

CHAN.2023.100

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch), and with reference to the letter of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, dated 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, concerning the call for contribution in the thematic report focusing on “Multiple crises fiscal systems and human rights”, kindly find attached the contribution of the Ministry of social solidarity in this regard.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch), the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Genève 10  
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**CC: Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

The Ministry of Social Solidarity is considered the responsible authority for taking care of all categories of Egyptian society, taking into account the social dimension when developing various programs and activities to serve the citizen and ensure human rights and achieve social justice. Among those rights are the rights of the elderly people, as they are the most important category in the society and they deserve a special care because they have reached a state of fatigue and deterioration in their health, so that they deeply need health and social care that provides them with a decent human life.

In this report, we present the required data that derived from the questionnaire of "The contributions of the Ministry of social solidarity in the field of the elderly people in the context of disasters resulting from climate change and the rebuilding in a better way", as follows:

**Firstly: The legal, political and institutional frameworks related to the rights of the elderly people:**

1- The Egyptian Constitution

The Egyptian constitution, promulgated in 2014, guaranteed the rights of the elderly, such as the right of social and health care and some facilities that help them to meet their needs easily. According to Article 83, the state is obliged to guarantee a decent life for them, and enable them to participate in public life. Moreover, In planning public facilities, the state takes into account the needs of the elderly, and encourages civil society organizations to participate in taking care of the elderly. All should be done according to regulations of the law.

2- The National Strategy for Human Rights:

His Excellency President / Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Republic, launched the National Strategy for Human Rights in September 2021, in which the rights of the elderly were mentioned within the third axis under the title of promoting the human rights of women, children, people with disabilities, youth, and the elderly. The strengths and opportunities with regard to the rights of the elderly are as follows:

- A- The commitment of the state to the text of Article (83) of the aforementioned constitution.
- B- The state granted a security pension to the elderly who do not receive an insurance pension and have no income. Social safety nets have been developed through the Karama Program, to grant the elderly a pension, starting from the age

of oneSixty-five years old, or for those who suffer from chronic illness or disease.

- C- Establishing care homes for the elderly, opening day-care clubs for them, and launching a written document on the rights of adults in cooperation with civil society.
- D- Dissemination of electronic culture mechanisms in the elderly centers to empower them culturally by creating self-culture methods by the easiest means.
- E- The Public Authority for Adult Education provided the elderly with the opportunity to continue their education in the preparatory stage, secondary and up to university education.

### 3- Social Insurance Law:

The provision of Social Insurance Law No. 148 of 2019,states thatthe pensions increase in 30 June of each year, starting from the first of July, according to the rate of inflation with a maximum of 15% for the increase, and that the value of the increase in the pension does not exceed the maximum monthly subscription wage in June of each year, in addition to support for irregular employment.

### 4- Universal health insurance law:

Law No. 2 of 2018, regarding to the Comprehensive Health Insurance System, is compulsory for all citizens and is based on social solidarity, and its umbrella covers all citizens of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The services of the system include a group of insurance health services for all diseases that are provided to the insured within the Arab Republic of Egypt, whether they are diagnostic, treatment, or rehabilitation services, or medical or laboratory examinations. The authority has the right, according to the report of the specialized committees to add more services in addition the pre mentioned services , taking into account the financial and actuarial balance of the system.

The state is obligated to provide health care, support elderly health, train practicing physicians, and prepare various hospitals and medical centers to provide care within 3 years. An elderly person who does not involve in health insurance services or is not covered by another health insurance umbrella has the right to access to the services provided by the comprehensive health insurance system. According to the regulating law, provided that the state has to establish a health insurance umbrella for the elderly that meets and suits their needs, and the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, is committed to building a database for the elderly, and this database is used in planning, implementing and following up the provision of various health services observing the confidentiality of its data.

### 5- Elderly Rights Law

In implementation of the provisions of Article 83 of the Egyptian Constitution, the Egyptian Council of Ministers approved, in September 2021, a draft law on the rights of the elderly, and it is being discussed in the Parliament and the Senate in preparation for the procedures for passing it before the end of the first half of 2023.

#### 6- The cash support project " Karama":

Prime Minister Decision No. 540 of 2015 regarding the cash support project Karamato support the elderly outside Insurance and Pensions System with a regular monthly amount, as well as providing support for bread and food commodities and health insurance for those who are unable.

#### 7- The National strategy of the elderly

The Egyptian state, through the Ministry of Social Solidarity, is working on preparing and launching a national strategy for the elderly to ensure the protection of the rights of the elderly at the health, social and economic levels, and to work towards reducing social disparities, achieving justice and equal opportunities for all, and developing societies in a way that guarantees a decent and dignified life that preserves the rights and human dignity of the elderly.

#### 8- The Elderly Companion Project

It is a project launched by the Ministry of Social Solidarity by Ministerial Resolution No. 533 of 2021 with the aim of preserving family cohesion by providing home care for the elderly within his family as an alternative about institutional care for the elderly. The project is based on achieving the following objectives:

- A- Rehabilitation and training of young men of both sexes to work as companions and providing them with job opportunities.
- B- Regulating the elderly's access to the elderly's companion service
- C- Regulating and codifying everything related to the job of the elderly companion
- D- Coordinating with partner NGOs and institutions to provide services at reasonable prices that do not target material profitability, through coordination with partner NGOs and institutions.
- E- Preparing an integrated database to provide the elderly companion service.
- F- Develop a system to follow up the elderly companion during work and the extent of the elderly's satisfaction with the service provided to them
- G- Cooperating and coordinating with all concerned parties working in the field of the elderly.

#### 9- The Supreme Committee for Elderly Care

The Higher Committee for Elderly Care in the Arab Republic of Egypt was formed based on the decision of the Minister of Social Solidarity No. 432 dated 9/12/2017, and it was re-formed by the Minister of Social Solidarity decision No. 472 dated 22/8/2022. Minister of Social Solidarity is its chairperson, and with membership of the representatives of concerned parties with elderly affairs

The Supreme Committee aims to:

- 1- Developing an integrated plan for elderly care in Egypt
- 2- Working on developing legislation and laws regulating the rights of the elderly.
- 3- Organizing and coordinating the programs of ministries and agencies concerned with caring for the elderly.
- 4- Proposing programs and activities that help the elderly to be aware of their importance and continuity of their role and giving, and his active participation insociety and invest its energies.
- 5- Establishing an information network for the places of services provided to the elderly, in which all concerned parties in the government participate in thisweb site and it is updated regularly.
- 6- Counting the number of elderly people who do not benefit from health insurance services in order to provide them with the treatment services at the expense of the state.

#### 10- Gratitude certificate to the elderly

It is a certificate , presented from Nasser Social Bank,and was launched specifically for the elderly credit holders (greater than60 years) one of the highest returns in the banking market, currently amounting to 1625% annually, as a kind of support and return of favor.

#### **Secondly: access to information**

The data is available on the website of the Ministry of Social Solidarity - the digital library (Egyptian Knowledge Bank), the Center for National Unity Studies - the Academy of Scientific Research, and information about the elderly is accessed through the homes for the elderly and the clubs for the elderly at the level of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The level of awareness among the public is raised through the provision of awareness and educational programs, courses and training workshops, whether for workers in homes and clubs for the elderly or working to educate the elderly and arrange health campaign for them.

#### **Thirdly: participation**

The elderly suffer from a disproportionately high rate of death and injury during the natural disasters, and this terrible fact must be reversed through plans, services and support, which targeted the treatment of the vulnerabilities of older persons while maximizing their contributions to security and collective well-being. Disaster prevention planning must take into account the mobility impairment that many elderly people suffer, and they should prepare themselves for the possibility of disaster, and they should know how to reach safety and protect themselves, as well as taking into account the needs of the elderly in early warning systems and social protection mechanisms, evacuation and emergency response plans, and public awareness campaigns.

Elderly people must be involved in disaster risk management and related plans and decision-making processes, where they can contribute to vital global discussions on addressing climate change and achieve development.

#### **Fourthly, the impact of climate-related disasters on the elderly**

One of the greatest challenges of our time is climate change and aging. Specifically, climate change has a disproportionate impact on certain groups of the population, due to their age, inability to move around, dependence on others, as well as their physical, emotional and mental condition. These problems are often exacerbated by poverty and place of residence, such as remote rural areas or coastal areas.

Elderly people are at greater risk in disaster situations. Impaired hearing or vision restricts their access to emergency information and awareness of the gravity of the situation, and their chronic health problems or special needs delay or prevent escape and evacuation. Elderly adults may also be reluctant to seek or access shelter.

While the vulnerability of older persons, particularly in disaster situations, is receiving increasing attention, more needs to be done to mitigate and reduce the impact of disasters on older persons and to ensure that their rights are protected at all times.

In parallel, it is necessary to recognize that elderly persons have unique capabilities and contributions to make when preparing for and responding to disasters, and that elderly persons must be the subject of disaster risk management policies and the ability to cope and resilience and be an active element in it.