



2023/0055339/5



Ref: الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر / جنيف

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's note dated 20 March 2023, transmitting the call for inputs of the Independent Expert on the enjoyments of all human rights by older persons in the context of climate change.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar is pleased to attach herewith the above-mentioned requested information as received from the competent authorities in the State of Qatar.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest considerations.

Geneva, 19th June 2023



OHCHR
CH- 1211 Geneva 10
Fax: 022 917 9008
Email: registry@ohchr.org/hrc-ie-olderpersons@un.org/claire.mathellie@un.org/manon.beury@un.org
E.E. 153902/



TÉLÉCOPIE ■ FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: 20 March 2023

ATO: All Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations at Geneva

DE/FROM: Beatriz Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beatriz Balbin".

FAX: +41 22 917 90 08

TEL: +41 22 917 11 85

E-MAIL: hrc-ie-olderpersons@un.org

REF:

PAGES: 4 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

COPIES:

OBJET/SUBJECT: **Letter from the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons**



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Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

20 March 2023

Subject: Call for inputs for the 2023 General Assembly thematic report on older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters and building back better

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, pursuant to resolution 51/4 of the Human Rights Council.

In this resolution, the Human Rights Council requests all Governments to cooperate with the Independent Expert and invites them to provide the mandate holder with all necessary information relating to the mandate.

In this regard, I am seeking written inputs from Member States to inform my next report to the 78th session of the General Assembly in 2023 on **Older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters and building back better**. I strongly encourage sharing concrete examples of good practices. While I welcome any information, reports, legislation or relevant materials on these issues, I am particularly interested in the areas highlighted in the attached questionnaire, available in English, French and Spanish.

Written contributions should be submitted in accessible format (Word document or PDF), not longer than 1,500 words, in English, French or Spanish, by **1 May 2023** to the email address of my mandate hrc-ie-olderpersons@un.org, indicating in the heading “Submission to the call for inputs on climate change – 2023 GA report”.

For any follow-up queries, kindly contact Ms. Manon Beury (manon.beury@un.org), and Ms. Claire Mathellié (claire.mathellie@un.org), Human Rights Officers supporting my mandate at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudia Mahler".

Claudia Mahler
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

To all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations at Geneva

INPUT – Older Persons in the Context of Climate Change-Induced Disasters and Building back Better

- 1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks: Is there national legislation on emergency disasters ? Does the legislation address the specific needs of older persons? Is there a national plan, policy or strategy to address the prevention, mitigation, and /or response to climate-related disasters, and does it include older persons? Please provide detailed information and relevant documents, if applicable.**

Human rights & duties for the Qatari population including older persons are well preserved in the State's General Constitution. Article (21) to Article (23) of Section3 of the National Environment Law No. 30 of 2002 and Article (21) in Chapter 3 of the Executive By-laws of 2005 deal with the emergency plans to address environmental disasters including climate change related risks. Moreover, Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030) which represents the primary backbone for the long-term human, social, economic, and environmental development pathway & goals has been designed to ensure best practice responses to natural and manmade hazards and disasters including those related to climate change. The Qatar National Development Strategies (NDS) 1, 2 & 3 provides the enabling tools to integrate and mainstream the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (included older people) into the workforce and society. Clean air and effective climate change outcomes & responses in NDS1 & NDS2 and the national plans for mitigation and adaptation are few examples.

Qatar is currently implementing the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) via the nationally determined contribution (NDC) under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. It covers around 35 mitigation and more than 300 adaptation initiatives, which includes impacts due to climate -related disasters. Moreover. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) is currently in the initial process of developing a scope of work to prepare the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which will include response to climate-related disaster for all groups including the vulnerable members of the society.

- 2. Access to Information: How do you raise awareness about existing measures in relation to prevention, mitigation, and response to climate -change related disasters in the public ? How is the information to access essential services (e.g., access to shelters , food security, health care , legal assistance , social services) made accessible and available for older persons? Please provide detailed information.**

Capacity building is a key cross cutting component to tackle climate change related disasters and public awareness is one of the elements. As part of capacity building in responding to climate change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in partnership with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is organizing workshop on Climate Vulnerability and Impact assessment for Qatar.

It worth mentioning that in general and not only in Qatar, there is lack of research that directly link the effect of climate change on the older people's health. Therefore, there is a need for detailed and in-depth studies that examine the correlation between climate change related-risk and the elderly's health for better policymaking. The state and civil society should implement programs that promote global and local climate and mitigate extreme climate changes in the future through active engagement by public as well as educate them on climate change and its health related impacts especially for older generation.

- 3. Participation: Are there measures in place to ensure the full and meaningful participation of older persons in addressing climate related disasters ? Please provide detailed information.**

Despite the fact that there is little relevant data available on how climate change has affected older people, there are few comprehensive studies that tackle the impact of heatwaves on this vulnerable group health and well-being.

Qatar has a National Health Strategy (NHS) with a key objective to improve the health of Qatar's population, meeting the needs of existing and future generations through an integrated system that aims to achieve better health, better care, and better value for all. The elderly is one of the 7 priority groups identified by the NHS.

- 4. Intersectionality: How do climate change -related disasters affect specific groups of older persons in all their diversity (including older women, older LGBTI persons, older persons belonging to national, religious , and linguistic minorities and older indigenous people, refugees and internally displaced older persons with disabilities , older persons based in urban and rural areas, among others). Please provide detailed information.**

This question is irrelevant to Qatar. The Qatari population is relatively homogenous, with no minorities or refugees.

- 5. Data: Is a disaggregated data available at national and local level about the impact of climate -related disasters on older persons? Is data available on the response to climate change related disasters , in particular with regard to older persons ? If available, please provide figures and such data.**

No. The impact of climate-related disasters to various sectors of the economy is identified in the adaptation measures outlined in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

- 6. Good Practice: Please provide examples of good practice for addressing the needs of older persons in preventing, mitigating and responding to climate change -related disasters.**

The old people of the population are highly sensitive to climate changes, resource scarcity and extreme events. As part of capacity building in responding to climate change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in partnership with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is organizing workshop on Climate Vulnerability and Impact assessment for Qatar.

The Qatar National Health Strategy enable the older persons as a priority group to be involved in the public healthcare consultancies and their feedback is highly valued. This is to ensure their equal access to health services as well as to provide them with tailored services that address their needs.