This document has been prepared to contribute to the report of the independent expert on the issue of the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, for her next report to the General Assembly in 2022, which will focus on older persons and the right to adequate housing

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| 1. What are the local and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks protecting and promoting the right to adequate housing of older persons? Please identify both existing or planned legal frameworks such as constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, or decrees. |

The Saudi "Vision 2030" included sustainable housing solutions enabling Saudi families to own suitable homes according to their needs and financial capabilities, including the older persons. In order to achieve this, the housing ecosystem was developed in terms of structure, procedures and policies for dealing with banks and private sector, by transforming The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing from being the developer, financier and implementer, to the role of catalyst and monitor.

Therefore, Sakani (My House) program, as one of the vision 2030 programs, was launched in 2018 to enable Saudi families to own the first home, as the percentage of Saudi families owning homes has increased from 47% in 2016 to 60% in 2020. Since the program launching, more than one million families have benefited from it, as the citizens’ satisfaction level with the provided housing solutions and programs has increased from 32% before the launch of the housing program to 80% by the end of 2020. In addition to providing adequate housing for those covered by social security services, according to ownership or usufruct law, in integration and partnership with the non-profit sector. More efforts have been taken to raise the option levels available to citizens to obtain high-quality affordable housing, and the issuance of the Housing Support Regulation was issued, to give each family breadwinner the right to apply for one of the available housing support products, according to controls and priorities, considering the family members, and the economic, social and health status of the applicant and his family members. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing has received the beneficiary requests via its website, it is currently working on completing the procedures for allocating support to the beneficiaries according to the priorities associated with each request, and the older persons are of the groups benefiting from the housing support programs.

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| 2. What are the existing local and national action plans, development plans and support programs for advancing the right to adequate housing for older persons? If available, please specify the budget allocated for their implementations. |

There is cooperation between the Ministry of Human Resources and Development and The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing and Housing to review the work and development plans, and existing national support programs to advance the right to adequate housing for older persons, including the following:

1. The Parent Council Program, which targets the regions’ older women and men by specifying one of the ministry’s facilities and preparing it for the older persons and presenting a set of programs and activities that contribute to investing and reflecting their experiences on the services provided in the region according to their needs and aspirations, and this is provided by the regions’ secretariats.

2. The development housing unit program, which targets the older persons from the most needy families providing their join to the social security program and NGOs in the region by providing housing units for the older persons from the most needy families in the community, under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development "Social Security", and having a completed request in the housing support portal “Iskan” (Housing), which is provided by development housing. Over the last three years, 11,000 families were granted housing units of development housing.

3. In addition, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development provides shelter and care for every citizen of 60 years or more, who is unable to carry out his own affairs and whose family or relatives do not have the means to do so.

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| 3. How are older persons involved and participating in the development of action plans, policies or legislation related to housing? |

A survey program was launched in order to develop municipal services in the regions, aiming at the participation of the older persons in ways appropriate to their age, in order to come up with a number of ideas that contribute to the development of municipal services and revive and enhance heritage in the regions.

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| 4. What challenges, barriers and forms of discrimination are faced by older persons in fulfilling their right to adequate housing? Please also include any existing legislation, policy or practice. Please also state how it impact older persons’ enjoyment of other human rights. |

The Sakani (my house) Program, as one of the ‘Saudi vision 2030’ program, was launched in 2018, with the aim of creating a vibrant environment for families and society, including elderly. Since its launch, the program focused on setting new standards for the development of the housing sector in order to enable citizens to obtain various housing options. This support will increase the percentage of Saudi families that own houses.

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| 5. How do other factors (i.e., gender, sex, race, ethnicity, indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, social status, place of origin and immigration status) intersect and impact the enjoyment of older persons’ right to adequate housing? |

In addition to the answer to the first question, these national legislations and strategic plans join together to ensure the enjoyment of older persons’ right to adequate housing without discrimination.

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| 6. What impact has had the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons’ right to adequate housing in your country (e.g., has the pandemic caused any policy shift away from institutions and more emphasis on community supports)? What measures have been taken to minimize its impact? |

The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the housing programs and its targets, and The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing is undertaking many initiatives, including the Access initiative, which contributes to preparing sidewalks, and public facilities around the central area and providing them with facilities suitable for everyone, including the elderly.

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| 7. What alternative housing strategies for older persons, other than care homes and state institutions, exist in your country? What policies/programmes are in place to enable older persons to live independently in their communities as they age? Please provide detailed information. |

* The Housing Program works to provide housing solutions that enable Saudi families to own and benefit from suitable houses based on their personal needs and financial capabilities. The program also seeks to improve housing conditions for current and future generations through the provision of suitable and guaranteed financing solutions, In the previous stage, the program accomplished significant success, as it was able to facilitate procedures of immediate entitlement for citizens to real-estate, instead of the 15-year waiting period, which doubled the movement of supply and demand in the program and its housing options and contributed to increasing the ownership rate from 47% in 2017 to 60% in 2020.
* The Elderly Rights and Care Law refers in Article (4) that an older person may not be placed in social care centers except after his approval, or after the issuance of a judicial ruling, or in cases of a threat to the life or safety of the elderly in accordance with the controls.

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| 8. What are the new and sustainable housing strategies for older persons considering the current concerns of the impacts of climate change? |

The launch of the Sustainable Building program, as part of the ‘Saudi’s Vision 2030’ realization programs, which is a service that enables the citizen to verify the quality and safety of the construction of the housing unit through a mechanism for examining the housing unit during its construction by accredited examiners, whereby each housing unit that meets the conditions obtains a quality certificate of construction implementation, and among the these mechanisms are the sustainability assessment service, which enables the measurement of the sustainability of the building, by following environmental standards that raise the efficiency of the building and improve the quality of life inside the building.

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| 9. How does the State fulfil its obligations to ensure older persons’ access justice, and to obtain remedies and reparations, when their right to adequate housing have been violated? |

Saudi Arabia’s laws include general and fair rules that are equal for everyone. The Basic Law of Governance requires in Article (47) equality before the courts, in addition to the fact that the lack of adequate housing for the older persons is considered a human rights violation that is dealt with by redress, starting with governmental and non-governmental institutions that plays oversight roles such as the Human Rights Commission, the relevant civil society institutions, and finally judicial authorities, including the public courts, administrative courts, the public prosecution, and the Monitoring and Investigation Commission. The Elderly Rights and Care Law, which was recently issued by Royal Decree No. (M/47), dated 6/1/2022, guarantees the older persons the right to care as states in Article (2) that Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development shall coordinate with the relevant authorities to ensure that the older persons are able to live in an environment that preserves their rights and dignity, and works to rehabilitate public and commercial facilities, residential neighborhoods, the surrounding environment and mosques; To be suitable for the older persons’ need, to allocate places for the older persons in public facilities and events, and to urge the private sector, business owners and civil institutions to take care of the older persons through the establishment of the social centers.

The Mobile Notaries Public service was also launched, which is a free service provided by the Ministry of Justice to beneficiaries who are unable to come to the notaries public offices including old persons of 65 years old or more, patients, people with disabilities, hospital guests, care and observation home guests, and holders of a priority card issued by the Ministry of Health. The notary public comes to provide the service at the beneficiary's site according to the available dates.

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| 10. What are the lessons learned from advocacy, legal, and policy actions undertaken to combat ageism and to access of adequate and affordable housing by older persons? |

As mentioned on answering question (8), one of the main initiatives of The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing is the Sustainable Building program, which aims to adapt modern residential projects to suit the needs of all citizens and residents, including the older persons.

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| 11. Data:  a. Does your country collect data on older persons’ living conditions in your country? If yes, please provide any available and disaggregated figures and statistics (e.g., number of older persons: in institutions, living alone, living with family, or living in urban and rural areas).  b. Is data on older persons broken-down into groups of different ages over 65 years to plan and address each specific age group’s needs in terms of housing? |

Article (2) of the Elderly Rights and Care Law included that the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, in coordination with the relevant authorities, shall provide documented statistical information on the older persons; to use them in the development of studies, research plans and programs associated to older persons, and it should be noted that Saudi Arabia working on developing all the entities databases in line with international human rights indicators

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| 12. Please outline any other areas that you would like to bring to the attention of the Independent Expert in the context of the right to adequate housing of older persons. Please feel free to share any document, report, study, publication already available and that might be of interest to the mandate. |

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