

Translated from Arabic

Views of the Government of Jordan on the note verbale circulated by the Secretariat of the United Nations towards a submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session in implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/182 entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing"

I. Legislation and policies with regard to older persons

1. With respect to the scope of the Ministry's work, the legislation setting forth the rights of older persons consists of Instruction No. 2 (2001) concerning the licensing of homes for older persons and Instruction No. 1 (1999) concerning the licensing of day centres. Because those instructions are not comprehensive, a committee was formed to prepare draft regulations covering resident care homes and day centres for older persons. The committee has completed its work after consulting with a number of relevant parties, including the National Council for Family Affairs, the National Centre for Human Rights and the Office for the Protection of the Family. The draft regulations will be submitted to

the Legislation and Opinion Bureau for promulgation in accordance with constitutional mechanisms. Each of the draft regulations incorporates numerous provisions clarifying standards for accommodation, leisure activities and health-related, social and psychological care at homes and centres. The licensing requirements set out in the draft regulations are based on those of the national building code in respect of access for the disabled. There are provisions for the protection of older persons, who must not be abused or neglected or denied their personal liberty. Those measures were enacted in implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Arab Plan of Action on Ageing to the year 2012.

2. Law No. 34 on civilian retirement, as amended, article 12, provides that employees shall retire on reaching the age of 60 or on accruing 40 years of pensionable service. Law No. 19 (2001) concerning social security, article 41, states that subscribers shall receive an old age pension at the age of 60 for men and 55 for women.

3. The Sales Tax Law provides that homes and institutions that care for older persons shall be exempt from sales tax.

4. Regulation No. 83 (2004) concerning civil health, as amended by Regulation No. 46

(2007) and Regulation No. 91 (2008), grants health insurance to persons aged over 60.

5. Law No. 31 (2007) concerning the rights of persons with disabilities updates Law

No. 12 (1993) concerning the protection of persons with disabilities, which established the

Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and a fund to support institutions

for persons with disabilities.

6. A National Strategy for Older Persons 2008-2012 has been put in place.

7. The Regulation on Family Protection Homes was enacted in 2004.

8. In late 1999, the Higher Council of Amman established an office tasked with

monitoring compliance with the building code in respect of persons with special needs.

Many older persons have disabilities, and the office marks a first step towards ensuring that

their surroundings are accessible.

9. Thanks to the initiative of the Jordanian Nursing Council, Amman was declared an

elderly-friendly city and Jordan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities in New York on 30 March 2007.

10. The Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2003-2012 was declared in accordance with the Charter of the League of Arab States and the commitments undertaken by government and civil society for the following decade, reflecting the concern of Arab governments for persons with disabilities as a sector of society.

11. Gender equality is guaranteed in laws and legislation concerning older persons.

II. Programmes and services for persons with disabilities

1. Relevant institutions provide Government-funded protection and continuing care for indigent older persons of both genders.

2. Monthly financial assistance is available to older persons in care homes in order to provide for their special needs.

3. Indigent older persons enjoy free health insurance.

4. The Government has authorized both the voluntary and private sectors to operate day centres.

5. Older persons in need are provided with prosthetic limbs, hearing and visual aids and dentures.

6. Community care: as part of a community rehabilitation programme, the type of care provided by institutions is being reduced and replaced with local community rehabilitation in order to encourage self-reliance in the provision of services to persons with disabilities, including older persons.

7. Regular assistance payments for care for persons with disabilities.

8. Work permit fees are waived for non-Jordanian workers, most of whom are older persons.

9. Awareness-raising campaigns tackle the abuse of older persons by their families.

10. Monthly assistance is provided to indigent older persons with disabilities who live with their families. As at the end of February 2011, a total 1,916,250 [Jordanian dinars] had been paid to 26,590 persons.

11. There are now 11 residential care homes in the Kingdom of Jordan, six operated by the voluntary sector and five by the private sector. There are seven day-care centres.

12. As of the end of 2010, there were 334 male and female older persons in residential care, including 131 indigent older persons whose care was paid for by the Government.

Jordanian society has preserved its customs and traditions, including a culture of protecting and caring for parents and older relatives, most of whom continue to live in the family.

III. Sources of data and information

Data on older persons is kept by the Office of Statistics. A database concerning older persons in care homes is maintained by the Ministry of Social Development. Lastly, all of the institutions that provide services to older persons keep data and records.