



A cooperative effort by the NGO Committee on Ageing and Global Action on Aging

Section I

I. What has the NGO done to educate older persons and/or the general public about the Madrid Plan?

Our Institute has held awareness generation sessions exchanged ideas in informal situations to share the Madrid Plan with the aging population. We've tried to share the socio-economic scenario with emphasis on demographics and their impact.

Section II

II. Which of the 3 priority directions of the Madrid Plan (older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; ensuring enabling and supportive environments) is the principal focus of the NGO?

Ensuring enabling and supportive environment is the principal focus of the Institute.

III. What specific accomplishments has the NGO achieved in that area? How has it worked with government, other NGO's and/or others to achieve its objectives?

The Institute employs older persons who staff the organization. Also, the Board of Trustees includes older persons. The President of the organization has retired from a government staff position and there are four Directors who have retired from different professional services having reached retirement age.

IV. Are there other significant accomplishments of the NGO?

The Institute has a resource centre equipped with publications on religion, philosophy and history with emphasis on Islam. It is open to aged persons free of charge to spend time reading. The centre provides a place where older persons can discuss issues of interest amongst themselves.

V. Every Government has been asked by the UN, but is not required, to conduct a "bottom-up" review and appraisal during 2007 of progress in their country in implementing the Madrid Plan. To your knowledge, has your government begun or committed to undertake that review? If yes, has your NGO been invited to participate? If so, how?

In Post Madrid discussions in Bangladesh have been difficult due to social, political and civil unrest that was compounded by natural calamities which required immediate attention. However, the government has shown interest and commitment to the aging movement. Over the recent period, the mortality rate in Bangladesh has been reduced, population growth has decreased and life expectancy is growing. Thus, aging has become a priority issue that is

culture-specific. In advance of the Madrid Plan, the Government of Bangladesh initiated a pilot pension program for the rural abjectly poor elderly. Unfortunately, no appropriate implementation monitored this effort or measured its impact. The government has not undertaken bottom-up reviews as yet.