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**WRITTEN STATEMENT SUBMITTED AT THE OPEN ENDED  
WORKING GROUP ON AGING, 13<sup>th</sup> SESSION ON FOCUS AREA :  
RIGHT TO HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES**

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For The Cameroon Constitution and National Political Paper for the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons, older people's rights to health and access to health services are the first priority. Despite this, some issues are still persistent as : high cost in medicine common in the treatment of ageing pathologies, limited accessibility to health care and drugs, insufficient services and personnel specialised in geriatrics, lack of specific programme of care delivery to older persons affected by HIV/AIDS, inappropriate feeding and nutrition.

All the above are worse in rural areas where older people in their broad range live in Cameroon.

It should be noticed that various measures have been taken to facilitate universal and equitable access of population to health and health services such as the universal health coverage, development of health facilities and their supply with minimum packages in order to bring health services closer, cost reduction policy to facilitate access to basic care by all including those related to some pathologies like HIV/AIDS and other chronic disease, medical assistance to indigenous and needy persons, systematic cost reduction in some public and para public health facilities (for example the national social insurance Fund Hospitals with 40 % reduction for medical fees).



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These various measures are not specifically for older people even if some of them can benefit . Reason why some strategies have been put in place to change this situation as the advocacy to decision makers to take more and more older people's right to health into consideration, as well as the sensitisation of communities.

To date, we welcome some main achievements even if still so insufficient : the opening of geriatrics pavilion in the Yaoundé and Douala central hospitals, encouraging medical schools to train more and more geriatricians and nurses, older people more and more receiving COVID 19 vaccines. But much remains to be done here for older people to enjoy their right to health and access to health services with a real focus in rural areas.

Time is more than ripe for the legally binding United Nations Convention on older People's Rights coming into force ; with this for certain, governments will give priority to older people's health and access health services.

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