



# Normative Input

For the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

## Focus Area

### RIGHT TO HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

In the United States, healthcare is managed by a complex network of entities including insurance companies, healthcare providers, hospital systems, and independent practitioners. Predominantly, healthcare facilities are owned and operated by private-sector entities. Presently, approximately 58% of community hospitals in the US are operated by nonprofit organizations, with around 21% being government-owned, and the remaining nearly 21% run by businesses.

Recent data indicates a strong correlation between public spending on healthcare and age demographics, with per capita public spending for seniors being over five times that for children. The concept of the right to health does not guarantee a state of being healthy, but it does impose an obligation on governments to implement policies that ensure basic health services are available and affordable to all citizens without discrimination. Ensuring access to healthcare and support systems is particularly crucial for marginalized groups such as the poor, minorities, persons with disabilities, women, and children.

Despite this, it's evident that numerous state policies have failed to uphold this fundamental human



right, especially concerning older individuals. Access to healthcare is indispensable for seniors to exercise their right to life, rendering healthcare a positive right that governments must provide to

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***(Accredited with The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing at United Nations since 2019)***

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all members of society. Priority should be given to older individuals facing severe medical conditions at all administrative levels.

While the argument for universal healthcare accessibility is rooted in moral and societal obligations, it's essential to recognize that providing healthcare is a constitutional duty of the government, necessitating adequate resource allocation to this sector. Ensuring standard healthcare for all is imperative.

Many Americans struggle to reconcile their beliefs in social justice with the reality that approximately 36 million individuals, many of whom are employed or dependents of employed individuals, lack basic health insurance coverage. Unlike several industrialized nations, the United States employs various strategies to negotiate the extent of the government's responsibility to provide healthcare and related social services that contribute to overall health.



Recent statistics show that approximately 1 in 10 people in the United States lack health insurance. Those without insurance are less likely to have a primary care provider and may struggle to afford necessary healthcare services and medications. It is paramount for the government to prioritize improving health outcomes by facilitating timely access to high-quality healthcare services for all citizens.

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