



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NV 128 /2024

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and with regards to the letter of the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group of Ageing, dated 2 February 2024, has the honour to attach herewith the contribution of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to:

1. Guiding questions for the focus area on participation in public life and in decision-making process
2. Guiding questions on the normative content related to right to health and access to health services

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Open-Ended Working Group of Ageing the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 9 April 2024

To
Open-Ended Working Group of Ageing
New York

email: ageing@un.org

Att.: 2 pages



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

CYPRUS' INPUT TO THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP IN AGEING

Acknowledging the role of the Open-Ended Working group in Ageing and particularly in the pursuit of promoting the rights of the elderly has the honor to provide the following in view of the forthcoming Fourteenth Session:

Participation in public life and in decision making process:

In Cyprus, the institution of the House of Elders plays a substantial role in decision-making processes for issues pertaining to the elderly. It has been established in 1999, under the auspices of the President of the House of Representatives.

It is comprised of 56 members, and convenes annually in the chamber of the House of Representatives. Its active involvement in societal discourse and advocacy for the elderly within decision-making centers significantly influences policy formulation and implementation.

One of its primary functions is to unite organized groups across society to promote pluralism and strengthen social cohesion. By bringing together a wide array of civil society organizations, the House of Elders fosters collaboration and diversity of perspectives.

Moreover, it enhances the active participation of senior citizens and promotes participatory democracy. Recognizing the wealth of knowledge and experience among the elderly, the House of Elders ensures their voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Additionally, it serves as a collective advocate for issues pertinent to the elderly, championing their rights and welfare through the legislative platform provided by the House of Elders.

In essence, the House of Elders embodies the principle of intergenerational solidarity and serves as a beacon of inclusivity in the democratic landscape of Cyprus. Through its concerted efforts, it strives to create a more equitable and age-friendly society, where the wisdom of the elders shapes the future for generations to come.

Guiding questions on the normative content relates the right to health and access to health services

The General Healthcare System (GHS) is a comprehensive healthcare system that provides equal access to healthcare services for all citizens, including older persons, with the option to choose healthcare provider, both from the private and public sectors.

The GHS covers all the healthcare needs of beneficiaries, including chronic, rare, and serious illnesses. It provides lifelong financial protection to all beneficiaries, even for unexpected and costly healthcare needs. The right to healthcare within the GHS is independent of contribution payments. Beneficiaries without income (unemployed, children, students, soldiers, and others) have equal access to healthcare services.

All beneficiaries of the GHS, regardless of age, have equal access to all healthcare services covered under the GHS.