**Legal provisions in the Republic of Armenia that recognizes the right to social security and social protection of the elderly**

The social security system in Armenia covers pensions, benefits for workers in the case of work-related accidents, disability benefits, sickness and maternity benefits, and family allowances.

The right to social security for the old age is fixed in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 83 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia states the right to social security in case of the old age in line with sickness, disability, need of care, unemployment, and other cases. According to the Article 84 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia the elderly shall have the right to a decent living[[1]](#footnote-1).

It is worth mentioning that social security system covers the entire population against all basic social risks under the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102) in Armenia though Armenia has not ratified the mentioned document.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Article 29) also stipulates the prohibition of any discrimination based on age.

On 18 June 2017, the government of Armenia adopted a “Strategy on the Solution of Issues Arising from the Consequences of the Population Ageing and Social Protection of the Elderly” and the 2017-2021 Action Plan on its implementation.

An old age pension system applies to all Armenian residents. According to the law of the Republic of Armenia on State Pensions (2010) the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, foreign citizens or stateless persons who meet the conditions specified in the Law shall have the right to a pension unless otherwise established by the mentioned Law[[2]](#footnote-2).

Thus, the pension system of the Republic of Armenia incorporates three main components: 1) the state pension security; 2) the mandatory funded pension; 3) the voluntary funded pension component.

State Pension Security component has two sub-components: Social Pension and Employment Pension. Social pension (also called public benefit) is a defined pension rate which is funded from the State Budget, and its main issue is to provide pensioners who have reached the age of 65 and

have no required eligible years of service with the minimum income. This component aims to overcome poverty.

Employment Pension is the old-age pension, based on the payments made. Employment pension is granted to individuals who have the minimum eligible number of years in service and have reached the age of 63, or have been recognized disabled or a survivor. However, the amount of this pension type is not conditioned by the payments the person has made during the employment years, but by the number of seniority years. Employment pensions are also funded by the State budget.

It is worth mentioning that ensuring a minimal amount of pension which is compatible with the minimal consumer budget is one of the Principles of the State Pension Policy[[3]](#footnote-3).

Therefore, by the decision of the Government of Armenia, starting from 1 January 2019 the size of old age benefit has been set at 25 500 AMD to overcome extreme poverty among the elderly.

As regards to the health care of the elderly, the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia stipulates the right of everyone to health care (Article 85). Accordingly, access to primary medical care requiring basic methods and technology is free of charge in Armenia as defined by the Law on Medical Assistance and Service to the Population (1996).

It is also important to mention that the Government of Armenia adopted a Concept on palliative care (2012-2016) and confirmed an action plan for the period of 2017-2019.

As regards to the international human rights treaties, the Republic of Armenia has ratified CESCR’s General Comment No. 6 on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons on the basis of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC)[[4]](#footnote-4).

1. <http://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/>, The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 83-84 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.epension.am/__vfs/222>, The law of the Republic of Armenia on State Pensions [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.epension.am/__vfs/222>, The law of the Republic of Armenia on State Pensions, Article 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. General Comment No. 6: The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Older Persons, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 8 December 1995, E/1996/22, page 34 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)