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The **GLOBAL AGEING NETWORK** has issued a "CALL to Governments" urgently calling on governments to reform and change the long-term care systems for older people.

The impact of issues arising from aging populations in countries around the globe, combined with declining numbers of caregivers and insufficient government support for services older adults need to live with dignity and respect, demands attention, warns a new report from the Global Ageing Network (GAN), an international network of leaders in ageing services, housing, research, technology and design from more than 60 countries all over the world.

For over a year, experts from around the world have been working on this document in response to the looming and increasing risk of future inaccessibility and unaffordability of long-term care services for the elderly.

A number of countries, whether at the level of professional associations, professional societies or governments, are addressing the challenges of sustainability of long-term care systems because of the increasing number of older people who need daily, often demanding care – not only because of the erratic increase in the number of people with dementia, but also because of critical shortages of staff in social services.

Australia is calling for changes in the long-term care system, the Netherlands is announcing possible long-term unsustainability of the current system and capacity, England is talking openly about the crisis in the long-term care system, all EU countries have workforce shortages, staff is ageing and there is currently a need of more than one million workers in Europe, etc.

The Call to the Governments of the World on Long-term Care and Ageing contains not only a description of the major problems and current challenges of long-term care, an emphasis on the importance of providing care and support to older people as a guarantee of their fundamental right to live with dignity, but also concrete directions for solutions and important principles.

The global expert group was chaired by the Chairman of the Global Ageing Network, Jiří Horecký, who is also the President of the **European Ageing Network** (www.ean.care).

"A number of countries is addressing the need for changes and reforms in the systems of support and long-term care for the elderly, and many countries are still developing such systems (Africa, South America). Among other things, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown how fragile, undervalued, underfunded and unprepared for the future the current systems are, and not only in Europe": says Jiří Horecký, Chairman of the Global Ageing Network and co-author of the global document Call to the Governments on Long-term Care and Ageing.

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“We have not only described the main risks, challenges and current issues related to long-term care provision. We have not only accentuated the accessibility of long-term care as one of the element human rights to live independently and with dignity, we have also outlined solutions, directions of new pathways and thinking”: underlines Jiri Horecky.

This activity is in accordance and complimentary with other recently introduced initiatives like the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021 – 2030, Framework for countries to achieve an integrated continuum of long-term care (WHO), the EU Care strategy and other relevant and actual documents.

Now, once this important document has been introduced it's going to be distributed and disseminated to the social and health care ministries and other relevant stakeholders across all the countries and continents, including Europe.

In Brussels 14. 2. 2023

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