



BİLGİ NOTU

THE UNECE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING 2022

First Ministerial Roundtable:

Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families

17 June 2022, 11.30 – 13.00 (GMT +2)

Derya YANIK

Minister of Family and Social Services

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Guests,

Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- First of all, please allow me to express my gratitude to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for organizing this meaningful Conference.
- I believe that it will be a productive event with valuable contributions of all participants.

Esteemed Guests,

- Depending on the developments in health, social work and technology in the last 20 years in Türkiye, life expectancy has increased while the birth rate has decreased prominently. The demographic transformation has been speeding up in Türkiye as well as Europe and the world.
- The rate of older persons has increased from 7.2% in 2000 to 9.7% by the end of 2021. The percentage of old aged population has increased by 24% the last five years which is putting Türkiye among the most rapidly aging countries. The average life expectancy at birth is 78 years. And the median age is 33.1 in 2021.
- The ratio of older population is expected to keep the increasing trend, and in 60 years, every one person in four is expected to be 65 years and older. Accordingly, our approach for long-term care has been structured based on our current demographic structure by also considering the future population projections.



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Distinguished Guests,

- This demographic transition process that Türkiye has been experiencing led us to revise the policy and services on ageing in the recent years.
- The national policy of Türkiye on aging has been shaped to enable older persons a wide range of movement area within the framework of active and healthy aging, within the family integrity, and by maintaining their ties with social life.
- To achieve this aim, different types of services such as long-term care, social support services, social security and social assistances are conducted “coordinately” and “complementarily”.

Distinguished Guests,

- The main purpose of long-term care services for older persons in Türkiye is to facilitate the transition to physical, mental and psychosocial changes experienced in old age.
- In this context, the care policies aim to provide a model in which people receive care support alongside their families and relatives, integrated with social life instead of relying mostly on the institutional care services by accepting aging in place and self-determination as a right.
- It is also aimed to increase independent living skills of older persons and support them to spend quality life. This understanding of psychosocial and care support services does not only include older persons, but also applies to their caregivers and family members. Our care policies consider the older persons and their environment as a whole.
- Nearly half of the older persons benefit from long-term care services free of charge and the other half with a partial fee based on their income. Care services for older persons in Türkiye are not planned according to demand, but according to supply and rights-based, taking into account regional density.

Distinguished Participants,

- Temporary and guest care services are also offered free of charge to older persons if their families or caregivers are temporarily unable to care for them. They can receive care from long-term care facilities for up to 45 days a year. As long as they receive service in these facilities, all of their needs are met by the care institution.
- “Quality Standards for Care Services” were developed to improve the quality in long-term care systems. Standards have been prepared with a rights-based and person-centred approach by considering the privacy and safety of older persons, the satisfaction of the care receiver and caregiver.
- There are also a number of practices to promote older persons’ autonomy and the participation in the society including the social relationship with their family and friends.



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- In this context, in addition to long-term institutional care; home care support services, home healthcare services, home care allowance, day care services, consultancy services, old age pension, benefits in-kind and in-cash, support in assistive technology, tax exemptions and derogations, and free or discounted travel opportunities are provided by the State.

Esteemed Participants,

- Due to the cultural and social structure in Türkiye, our recent researches show that the older persons want to be cared for by their family members; and younger generations also want to take care of their older family members themselves.
- At this point, one of the services offered both to support caregiving families and to encourage intergenerational solidarity among family members is the home care allowance. Monthly payment is provided to family members who provide care to persons with disabilities and older persons in need of care and in economic and social deprivation.
- Day care and home care support services have been provided in coordination with municipalities as well. In order to support, strengthen, ensure standardization and expand the services of local governments for older persons, Elderly Support Programme has been put into practice since 2016. It is a project-based support program that aims to raise awareness about aging by activating local dynamics, to support older persons in their own home environment and to prevent their isolation from social life.

Distinguished Guests,

- Besides the different types of care services, social assistances such as old age pension are also provided for older persons that aim to financially support the most vulnerable groups among the older persons and to enable them to continue their lives within the conditions worthy of human dignity.
- Moreover, there are ongoing projects that are carried out to expand and strengthen community-based care services. Within this context, two projects are conducted namely, “Improving Day Care and Home Care Services for the Elderly Project” and “Increase Accessibility of the Social Services by the Most Vulnerable Segments of the Turkish Citizens and Persons under Temporary Protection and Persons under International Protection Project”.

Distinguished Participants,

- Based on our national aging policy, we aim to expand long-term care services in a way that responds to diverse and evolving needs of the population.



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- While doing this, we attach great importance to the life cycle approach, to consider both societal and individual aging simultaneously and to evaluate older person not only as an individual but also as a whole with their backgrounds, their capacities and environments.
- Before I conclude my speech, I would like to thank all the organizers, participants. I greet you all with my deepest respect.

