

WHO Global Standards for Long-Term Care: consultation draft

Participant brief for the IFA workshop “Shaping the future of long-term care” · 23 September 2026

The World Health Organization (WHO) is consulting publicly on the consultation draft of its Global Standards for Long-Term Care, the first WHO document to describe what a quality long-term care system looks like across all settings. The consultation is **open until 30 October 2026**. This brief gives you what you need for the workshop; no other preparation is expected.

The draft at a glance

- Released at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2026, as part of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030. It builds on the WHO framework for an integrated continuum of long-term care (2021) and the long-term care package for universal health coverage (2024).
- Five foundational principles and 34 standards in eight chapters.** Each standard is expressed through quality statements (106 in all), each with a rationale, implementation guidance and indicative measures.
- What the standards are:** a description of a national long-term care system under public stewardship, applying to every provider, whether public, private or not-for-profit, and written for adaptation by countries at every stage of system development.
- What they are not:** a certification or rating scheme for individual facilities or organizations, or a single model that every country must copy.
- The document is a working draft for consultation and is not for citation. WHO will revise it in the light of the input received, with publication planned for 2027.

Chapter	What it covers
1. Definitions and foundational principles	Rights-based care · person-centred integrated care · carer recognition and support · ageing in the right place · quality
2. Home and community-based care	Entry, assessment and care coordination · independent living at home · community-based health services · social support and participation
3. Long-term care facilities	Fundamental human rights · adequate service provision · safe and empowering environments · transparency and accountability
4. Support for unpaid carers	Early identification and needs assessment · respite care · education and skills training · social protection and financial security · engagement and recognition
5. Workforce	Competencies and training · staffing and workload · working conditions, well-being and rights · supervision, teamwork and accountability · workforce profile
6. Financing	Coverage of entitlements · needs-oriented allocation · shared responsibility · equity · financial protection · adequacy and quality alignment
7. Governance	Regulatory framework · licensing and registration · oversight and enforcement · rights protection · coordination across sectors and levels of government
8. Quality monitoring	Measurement and data systems · inspection and assessment · complaints and feedback · quality improvement · public transparency and accountability

Guiding questions for the workshop

Please think about these from where you stand: as an older person, a carer, a provider, a care worker, an advocate or a researcher. It helps to picture the standards being introduced in your own country or setting. There is no need to cover everything; one chapter or one standard you know well is enough.

1. **What matters most?** Which parts of the draft are most important for the people you represent or serve, and should be kept and emphasized?
2. **What would be difficult or contentious?** If these standards were introduced in your country or setting, what would be hard to achieve or likely to be disputed, and why?
3. **What is missing, unclear or wrongly framed?** Whose situation or which issue does the draft overlook?
4. **Who else should be heard?** Which people or groups in your network should have a say before 30 October, and what would it take to bring them together?

Depending on your perspective, you may also wish to consider

- **Organizations of older people:** does the draft protect voice, choice and rights in everyday care, including for people living with dementia?
- **Carers' organizations:** would Chapter 4 change anything for unpaid carers where you live, and what would make it real?
- **Providers and provider associations:** which standards in Chapters 2, 3, 5 and 8 are achievable now, which need time or funding, and what support would be needed?
- **Care workers and professional bodies:** does Chapter 5 reflect the conditions and recognition that care work requires?
- **Organizations in low- and middle-income countries:** where formal services are scarce and families provide most care, where should a country start?

How to respond

- **Read** the summary (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) or the full consultation draft (English) on the consultation page:
<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-public-consultation-on-global-standards-for-long-term-care>
- **Respond** through the online survey, in the same eight languages. You may complete only the parts relevant to you:
<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv6/index.php/947261>
- **Or write** to lrc@who.int with comments, a completed questionnaire or a position paper. Consolidated responses from organizations are encouraged; individual responses are equally welcome.
- **Host a conversation** in your own network and send a short report. IFA and WHO will share a simple format after the workshop.

Deadline for all input: 30 October 2026. Questions: lrc@who.int