



некоммерческое партнерство
по содействию в продвижении
социальных программ
в области здравоохранения
«РАВНОЕ ПРАВО НА ЖИЗНЬ»
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Исх. № 14 - 02/20 от February 14, 2020 г.

Dear Sirs,

Non-commercial partnership “Equal Right to Life” thanks the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva for the opportunity to comment on the draft General Comment on Science and Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

“Equal Right to Life” is a non-government All-Russian oncological social program launched by the country’s leading oncologists to inform and involve the entire spectrum of the Russian society into developing solutions for issues related to prevention, early detection and treatment of oncological diseases. We focus on securing equal rights of Russian patients and Russian doctor-oncologists to information about the latest developments in global cancer treatment and prevention. Fostering collaborative efforts of governments, scientific community and civil society remains our equally important priority.

We welcome the idea of providing clarity to the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. The document is timely and relevant, especially when it comes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in our case – SDG 3 on health. In this connection, it is important to focus on multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder actions for science, international cooperation, as well as promotion of innovative technologies and products that help meeting healthcare objectives.

We very much support the idea stated in the Draft General Comment about the accessibility of information on the risks and benefits of science and technology (paragraph 23). This is important given the need to elaborate new, breakthrough approaches to curb, for example, the NCD burden which, according to the WHO data, is collectively responsible for almost 70% of all deaths worldwide and one of the key factors leading to oncological diseases. We believe an extra effort is needed to increase the general public and patients’ awareness about preventing NCDs, methods of detecting NCDs, including early detection programs.

We also support the idea of the precautionary principle addressed in the Draft General Comment (para 61). The Member States should use this principle while exploring and updating their regulatory and legislative solutions aimed at disease prevention, including the regulation of potentially carcinogenic consumer products being one of the leading reasons for oncological diseases. The use of this principle envisages increased opportunities for and mandating positive contributions from the private sector by scaling up information campaigns, such as inspiring consumers to shift to alternative products with lower levels of carcinogens. This will allow addressing the role of primary prevention of NCDs, implemented by legislative mechanisms of regulating the manufacture and consumption of harmful products, as well as information

campaigns aimed at reduction of consumption of potentially carcinogenic products and products high in sugar, salt and fat contents.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Borisov', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Dmitry Borisov,
Head of “Equal Right to Life”