

Azerbaijan Country Statement for the Third Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2017, Bangkok

Dear Excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

First, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan I would like to thank UN ESCAP for the well-organized meeting and given opportunity to rethink challenges of population ageing and reaffirm our commitments to take actions at all levels to build a society for all ages.

15 years have passed since Madrid meeting where countries adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Actions on Ageing to respond to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing in the coming years, decades.

The Madrid meeting provided the necessary political impetus for key political decisions in this field at international, regional and national levels.

Great efforts and substantial work have been done to achieve the goal, but we still have to do even more.

Based on MIPAA principles the main priorities for policy actions in Azerbaijan are:

- Increasing attention to the issues of population ageing and wider recognition of older persons' contribution to economic growth and society;
- Developing lifelong learning education and improving professional training and retraining system;
- Developing and implementing employment strategies focusing on incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible schedules for older persons;
- Adapting national social protection systems to the demographic changes;
- Developing infrastructure and advancing wider use of innovative approaches in providing rehabilitation, health and care services;
- Promoting stronger involvement of public and private sectors in developing services for older persons;
- Strengthening the intergenerational solidarity.

The national policy in the field of social protection of older persons in the Republic of Azerbaijan is an integral part of the social policy realizing in the country.

We must recognize that the issues discussed today relate not only to the political, but also to the moral order. The future development and realization of the rights of older persons, improvements

of their quality of life depends crucially on the policy actions undertaken today, where we are all engaged.

Policies on ageing and implementation of complex activities have to be seen as a shared responsibility of all members of the society. There is a need for intergenerational dialogue and better collaboration between policymakers, private sector, social partners, researchers, NGOs and international organizations.

In our opinion, among the policy actions more attention should be paid to measures to consolidate the continuity of generations. New generations of young and elderly people are connected to each other, not only by the time in which they live. Rapid socioeconomic changes put before the society new initiatives related to the preparation of the youth for the fulfilment of the task assigned to it and responsibility for the elderly.

The solidarity between generations at all levels might be a foundation of the informal care systems and formal public welfare.

Thank you.