Madam chair, your excellencies, distinguished guests, friends and colleagues I am honoured to share some high-level summary from the first of four stakeholder consultations which will follow.

Adopting a life cycle / life course and rights- based approach, in coordination and collaboration with all related stakeholders is fundamental to the development progress of the implementation of the MIPAA Plan, and foremost for older people and development.

Everyone, including both the young and older persons, needed to contribute to developing sustainable societies for all ages. Older persons in The Asia Pacific Region have different issues but in the development process, were facing common challenges. During the last review, governments and society had realized the need to adapt social and economic systems to the reality of population ageing.

Older persons continued to be viewed as a burden of society instead of vibrant active individuals with skills and experience, who were contributing to their communities and national development.

At the heart of the eight priority issues which framed the consultations was participation and engagement across generations, access to knowledge and training, consequential to work and the ageing labour force and linked to income security, social protection and security and poverty prevention. The dynamic forces of rural development, migration and urbanization as with all other priority issues are seen through the gender lens accelerated in emergency situations.

Cooperation between the government and civil society had been strengthened and led to improvements of older persons’ rights, their social protection and related regulations, as well as participation in the decision-making process for and by older persons and civil society organizations that represented older persons.

Active participation of older persons was associated with positive social attitudes that could be amplified through the connection and solidarity of younger people. Training to re-establish, strength or attain new skills is essential to promote labour productivity, combat ageism and address income security and poverty prevention. New and sustained investment in digitalisation and more importantly improving digital literacy will undoubtedly improve the quality of life of current and future generations of older people.

Changes in legislation and policy as it relates for instance to the use of agricultural land for residential purposes, extending retirement ages, credits to older person by agencies for loans, protecting older people without family, social protection are promoted as clear and tangible actions.

The UN Decade of healthy ageing, endorsed by the World Health Assembly, aligns with and supports implementation of the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To promote and strengthen multisectoral and multi-stakeholder partnering to foster healthy ageing and in particular the implementation of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030.