Second Stakeholder Consultation

Your Excellencies, it is my privilege to present on the results of the Second Stakeholder Consultation for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing Advancing health and well-being into old age held last 28 April 2022 virtually.

1. Participants noted progress made in implementation of priority direction II of MIPAA, such as expanded access to health care and initiatives towards the empowerment of older persons to enjoy their rights and live in dignity. Awareness on healthy ageing had increased since the third review and appraisal of MIPAA in 2017.

2. Many countries introduced specific policies on population ageing however, it was not yet mainstreamed.

3. Challenges do persist. The health of some groups of older persons, particularly women and those in urban areas, had deteriorated over time. Policies on health and well-being of older persons often lacked a lifecycle approach and were often not fully implemented.

4. Rehabilitation services and mental health care often received little reflection in policies. COVID-19 had further highlighted the gap between policies and implementation.

5. The pandemic had exacerbated life course issues, such as equity, poverty, digital divide, ageism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. It had negative effects on the overall health and well-being of older persons, including suffering from isolation and other mental health issues.

6. Technological barriers made access to telehealth services difficult for older persons and those with chronic diseases often did not see their health care needs addressed during the pandemic.

7. Older women often faced multiple levels of discrimination, sometimes reflected in policies that were not gender sensitive. Older persons of lower socioeconomic status, particularly older women, faced higher care
burdens in later life. Many older women provide unpaid care for children and other older persons but had limited access to care when they themselves required it and limited access to social protection.

8. Several good practices emerged and shared including raising awareness on healthy ageing, policy progress in the region, and increasing psychosocial support such as rehabilitation, palliative and end-of-life-care as well as health screening programmes.

9. In many countries, older persons associations were playing an important role in the provision of health services to older persons and promoting healthy lifestyles.

10. Recommendations were also shared, focusing on the following areas:
   a. Universal access to healthcare and access to income security
   b. Life-long learning opportunities
   c. Harness Community-based approaches of care and for health and well-being, including the support of older persons associations
   d. Expand specific care for older persons
   e. 

Thank you very much.