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Under-Secretary-General of United Nations and Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  

Closing remarks (prepared for delivery)  
Fourth Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing  
1 July 2022, Bangkok  
Time: 15:40-16:00  
Venue: ESCAP Hall  

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Chair, Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  

As we conclude the Fourth Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking part in this important meeting.  

We have reviewed policies and good practices to improve the situation of older persons and to adapt our societies to ageing societies. We have identified gaps and emerging priorities. We have also adopted a forward-looking outcome document to accelerate implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in Asia and the Pacific.  

Let me propose three concrete steps forward:  

First, let us work together to ensure that Asia and the Pacific is well represented at the global review of the Madrid International Plan of Action at the Commission on Social Development in New York in 2023 and have our outcomes presented.
ESCAP is ready to support member States and stakeholders to bring the key messages of this review process to New York next year.

To those countries that have not yet completed the voluntary surveys on the review of the Plan of Action on Ageing, please know that your submissions are still welcome, and they can be incorporated into the Asia-Pacific Ageing Report 2022, on which we are working. We plan to launch it on 1 October, the International Day of Older Persons.

**Second**, let us also make sure that the report of the Meeting and its outcome document inform the 7th session of the Committee on Social Development, to be held from 6 to 8 September 2022. At the Committee meeting, we hope to discuss next steps in making the outcome document actionable. We look forward to your reflections and suggestions.

In this regard, let us work with the voluntary monitoring framework, proposed in one of the background papers of the meeting, to collect data and information and help member States assess the situation of older persons on a regular basis. Advancing the integration of older persons into economies and societies will strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ESCAP is ready to build capacity on the implementation of targets of the 2030 Agenda that relate to population ageing and older persons and the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. We will also continue to facilitate your regular reviews, and I invite the Regional Network to support us on this.
**Third**, let us advance regional cooperation and partnerships at the regional, subregional and bilateral levels. Let us all work together: countries, intergovernmental organizations, stakeholders and United Nations entities. Given the demographic diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, learning from each other is crucial. Going forward, let us be ambitious, and advance practical implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

**Excellencies,**

In closing, I wish to thank you, Chair and Vice-Chairs, as well as the Facilitator of the informal consultations on the outcome document, who so ably guided our preparations and the proceedings, and the members and associate members of the Commission for your participation and attention.

I also would like to extend my gratitude to the roundtable speakers and moderators and all the members of the United Nations Regional Network for their hard work in supporting the convening of the meeting.

ESCAP is proud to be part of the Informal Regional UN Network of Focal Points on Ageing which support governments in the Asia-Pacific region in building societies for all ages.

I would like to thank all the stakeholders for your valuable contributions to this meeting and making it truly inclusive.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to ESCAP secretariat staff for their hard work on organizing the meeting.
I look forward to working with all you in ensuring that every woman and man in Asia and the Pacific will age in dignity, in security, and with social protection.

Thank you.