Respected Chair I am happy and honoured to have an opportunity to share my work at the national, regional and global level. Since the adoption of MIPAA and as ageing population in almost all nations is steadily increasing my activities have raised awareness on rights of older people, on recognizing the contribution of older men and women in families, communities, in various economic activities through their resilience. By interacting with older people have encouraged them to ask as electorate for suitable policies, programs, services and facilities as well as legislative measures which protect and safeguard their interests. Through discussion meetings, inviting government officials, representatives from international, national organizations and experts we have reflected on concerns of older people with focus on sustainable solutions. These interactions have led to sharing practices on combating elder abuse, strengthening intergenerational bonds and taking forward discourses that allow deeper understanding and impacts of demographic and epidemiological transitions taking place. Some recent initiatives have related to coping with disasters especially the Covid 19 pandemic, facilitating digital and technological inclusion and adopting active ageing practices. All these set of activities be it research oriented or providing theoretical underpinnings or having policy and programmatic implications have over the
years promoted taking forward MIPAA priority directions. In the last 4-5 years particularly my work on a personal level through my writings and as part of my NGO activities has looked critically at connections between implementation of MIPAA, the SDG framework and Decade of Healthy Ageing. Certain challenges are seen in the Region which needs to be overcome and I want to stress on the urgent need to mainstream ageing correlated with gender considerations in all societies. Together we should push for universalization of pensions, secure future of work and social protection. These are urgently required in many countries in the region along with making provisions for long term care, planning growth of geriatric medicine with wider reach out and accessibility in rural, remote and urban areas. Making all spaces and provisions age friendly and enabling is pertinent as much it is to focus on digital literacy for all ages and all sections of the society. Emphasis on researching and collecting robust ageing data cannot be undermined as we work towards silver jubilee of MIPAA in the next 5 years.

Thank you for your patient listening.