Ministers, representatives of governments, friends, as Chief Executive of HelpAge International I am
honoured to be able to speak to you directly at this vital Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental
meeting.

20 years ago at 2nd world assembly on aging in April 2002 The Madrid International plan of Action on
Ageing was adopted by general consensus, the first Global agreement THAT commits governments
to include aging in all social and economic development policies.

MIPPAA is ALSO significant as it mainstream ageing into the global HUMAN rights agenda,
Confirming that the promotion of and protection of older persons fundamental rights are essential
for the creation of a society for all ages.

Since then every 5 years we have engaged in systematic reviews, and HelpAge and its partners have
continued to play a role this time across and the world and especially in Asia. We have been
Convening meetings with network members and partners to promote collaboration and to
strengthen organisations capacity to connect with national govs and inform their findings.

The outcomes of the 4th reviews shows once again there has been limited progress
, and it varies greatly depending on each region. Asia Pacific leads the way, but still there

Are significant gaps and we are all underperforming. IN EFFORTS to mainstream ageing issues and
the specific needs of older people into their national policies.

There are three key challenges we see at HelpAge

- MIPPAA is not a legally binding instrument, Government reporting on its implementation is
also voluntary.
• There is still a lack of international cooperation to support low income and middle income countries,

MIPAA commits states to provide this support but it has not materialised

• There is a Lack resources and focus - UN level, for provision of technical support for member states to improve national capacity and lack of resources to support a bottom up MIPAA review involving older people to really assess the impact on the their quality of life.

MIPAA, is particularly useful to guide States when there is already the political will to take action.

At HelpAge we need a UN Convention on the Rights of Older People, we believe it would strengthen MIPAA implementation and fill remaining gaps in the rights framework. Both are needed to bring about the necessary social and political changes, they are complementary to each other and mutually reinforcing.

We are faced with a global challenge and an opportunity because of population ageing we need political will and support to meet this, MIPPAA must be strengthen, more resources provided, and a UN convention agreed to.

If not, support to older people will remain weak and inadequate and communities will not thrive and states will end up dealing with greater problems.

Thank you.