Excellencies, distinguished participants,

I have the honour to report to you on the outcomes of the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development, which took place 6-8 September 2022. Through deliberations conducted, the Committee called on the secretariat to support on members and associate members of the Commission in their efforts to accelerate progress in implementation of the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee further requested the secretariat to explore ways to strengthen the implementation of, and follow up to, the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), taking in account the involvement, as appropriate, of civil society organisations and organisations of older persons in Asia and the Pacific. In support of the MIPAA review, the Committee called on members and associate members of the Commission to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing and to provide, on a voluntary basis, regular updates on population ageing to the secretariat to facilitate sharing of experiences and knowledge at the regional level. Finally, the Committee took note of preparations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, which was held in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022.

The Committee deliberated on strategies for building a healthy, protected and productive workforce in Asia and the Pacific as well as strategies for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific. It also discussed follow-up to the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA, as well as the Review of implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The deliberations benefited from one keynote speech and two high level panel discussions and came to a successful conclusion.

The Commission is invited to endorse the recommendations and decisions of the Committee.

Thank you.