

## **Statement of Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV), Thailand**

### **The Seventh session of the Committee on Social Development, Bangkok and online, 6 to 8 September 2022**

Respected chair, I am Usa Khiewrord, representing the Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV), a national non-governmental organisation based in Thailand.

In many countries, ageism and age discrimination are widespread and socially accepted. For example, in Thailand, the prohibition of ageism is not explicitly included in the Act on Older Persons, there is a wide spread of age discrimination in employment and the inclusion of an upper age limit is common in job advertisements despite government efforts in promoting employment for older people.

Older people are significant contributors to societies, but negative perceptions and age discrimination prevent them from fully participating and contributing to socio-economic development. The national survey conducted as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> MIPAA review in Asia and the Pacific identified misperceptions and stereotypes about older people and population age as one of the top three challenges for the implementation of MIPAA. Ageism is a root cause of many other challenges. Not being able to tap the potential of this fast-growing older population is a huge loss for societies.

Combating ageism and age discrimination should be one of the priorities for governments and stakeholders in accelerating the implementation of MIPAA. There have been several good practices in the region that can be promoted and scaled up including the development of community-based older people's organisations using an intergeneration approach which will facilitate interaction between younger and older generations, proven to be effective in reducing and preventing ageism. Apart from addressing ageism, these organisations can also act as local mechanisms for older people to collectively address their own challenges and the communities in which they live.

To achieve a society for all ages, people- young and old, women and men must be treated equally and have equal opportunities to contribute and benefit from development regardless of their age. Thank you.