

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

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Thank you, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, a pleasant good morning from the Maldives.

First, allow me to warmly thank the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for allowing me to say a few words and contribute to this discussion.

I believe after the successful adoption of the outcome document with the inputs from the stakeholders, we are now in the process of implementing the outcomes at national level.

The Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing provides a holistic and comprehensive global framework for the issues related to Ageing. And with the final outcome document of Madrid Plan of Action and Ageing, it would be essential to align the decision to our working process.

Maldives is working on reviewing the National Action plan and aligning it with the outcome document and the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. Further we would also be developing the monitoring mechanism to monitor and record the progress and achievements. This would be beneficial in continuing the work on ageing as we will be able to contribute to the global review of the Madrid international Plan of Action on Ageing

We must note that this process is extremely important as we have limited data with regard to the situation of older persons in the country. Data related to the

emerging global trends such as the Covid 19 pandemic and climate change and the impact of this on older population is limited.

In order to align the National policy with MIPAA, we are in the process of finalizing and processing the data from our nationwide assessment on the situation of older persons in the Maldives. This assessment will take into account the relevant data from all the atolls in Maldives. And would aid in providing a holistic approach with regard to aligning the national policy and action plan with the issues highlighted in MIPAA, and the outcome document adopted.

As mentioned in the expert group meeting held in August, the ageing process dashboard will also aid in accessing all the available data concerning good practices and policies that are practiced in this region, and would enable us to carry forward and implement the outcomes at a National level.

I am confident that this discussion will enable us to contribute and bring a way forward to ensure that population ageing is considered and addressed at national level.

And as we deliberate on addressing population ageing and impacts that may hinder, income security, healthy living, access to health care, supportive environment and leaving no older person behind, I believe that with effective policies, investments, adequate and sustainable social security systems, we can together address these issues and achieve SDGs.

Distinguished guest, ladies, and gentlemen, I thank you for your close attention and for your sincere considerations, Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to ESCAP secretariat staff for their hard work on organizing the meeting.