



**The Statement of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of
the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Narek Mkrtchyan**

UNECE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING

Sustainable World for All Ages

Rome, Italy

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great honor for me to address this session of the Conference.

First of all, let me extend my gratitude to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Government of Italy for the excellent organization of the Conference and for the warm welcome.

The Ministerial Conferences held within the context of review and appraisal of the implementation of Madrid Plan of Action and Regional Implementation Strategy have a unique role for promotion and reinforcement of our common principles and provide an important platform to review the achievements, identify and address the gaps towards ensuring a sustainable society for all ages.

The current demographic trends present various challenges for policymaking. A more comprehensive and multilayer approach is required to better address the emerging needs in ageing societies, to promote and ensure healthy ageing and ageing with dignity.

The Government of Armenia is committed to consistent reforms in compliance with international standards to ensure the protection of older persons' rights, participation in society and combating discrimination, including in the framework of national efforts towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Armenian Development Strategy for 2014-2025 and the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 define the growth of employment, elimination of poverty, enhancement of social protection system and human development as priorities in the development agenda of the country.

In line with the current trends and challenges of ageing society, and in close collaboration with the office of the UNFPA in Armenia, we have launched a new Project last year aimed at improving the care services and introducing community-based services for the elderly. The 2021-2023 Action Plan of the Government on Aging sets the overall framework of our initiatives, with the goal of improving the social services system, promoting healthy and active life, ensuring economic safety and social inclusion, participation in community life and decision making processes.

Another important component of the Action Plan is the support to the families, which will enable the older persons to stay in a family environment.

We have set up an Interagency Committee, with the participation of the civil society and international organizations, to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan.

Moreover, since 2015 the network on ageing issues comprising state agencies, civil society and international organizations has been in operation, having regular meetings to discuss legislative changes, reform packages, existing issues and gaps, to introduce suggestions and recommendations for further developments in the area, to implement joint projects tailored to the needs of older persons.

Last year in cooperation with UNFPA Armenia and other international organizations we have carried out a survey in the country to assess and identify the needs of older persons related to required services in order to ensure more accessible and targeted community-based services, to promote the autonomy of the older persons and their participation in society. The results of the survey have been used for further policy development.

The Government of Armenia has initiated large-scale reforms to introduce unified social services system in the country. Regional centers of unified social services are already functioning in the capital and all regions of the country. The core achievement in this context is the development of social workers' institute, which ensures targeted work with older persons and their families to promote provision of community services based on real individual needs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The aggression, unleashed by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno Karabakh in 2020 in the most terrible way affected the elderly population living there. As a part of the post-war response constant efforts are being made by the Government of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh authorities to address the issues these people are currently facing, in particular by providing suitable accommodation and financial assistance. From this perspective, Armenia is ready to cooperate closely with our international partners with the aim of managing the negative effect of the conflict on civilians and provide people in need with adequate aid and assistance.

Dear colleagues,

The priorities in our agenda are to take necessary measures to promote longer working life, provide efficient and accessible health services, create basis for active ageing.

To foster the efficient implementation of MIPAA targets there is a need for continuous coordinated work at all levels by consolidating the efforts and resources of states, civil society, international community and older persons.

The priorities and directions defined by the Ministerial Conference are essential in helping us to continue our work in line with the current challenges, equipped with the best practices from other countries to ensure active healthy ageing with dignity and a sustainable world for all ages.

Thank you for your attention.