

I thank you Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Chairman, I would like to first thank you for chairing this session, your leadership and the active role of your delegation in this important theme. Our country attaches great importance to the situation of older persons and has supported relevant resolutions of the General Assembly related to the work of the open-ended working group. In addition we attach great importance to the review of the Madrid Plan of Action next year.

At this juncture we agree that it is indeed important to take stock of what we have achieved and in particular discuss on the way forward. But of course we cannot do that without having into view the mandate of the group, namely to consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures.

After three sessions of the Working Group we recognize that there are indeed serious concerns regarding the situation and enjoyment of human rights by older persons, however we are not convinced that a new instrument will be able to tackle these issues. In addition, while we have duly noted and fully respect all the views expressed so far, we are not convinced of the feasibility and the need at this stage to consider proposals towards drafting a new international instrument.

Instead, in the broader context of the international human rights law we think that there is indeed a proliferation of instruments and what we really need is implementation of relevant provisions, including those related, inter alia, to human rights of older persons.

In this context, based on the discussions in this group, we are of the opinion that we should fully explore possibilities and make better use of the existing legal frameworks and mechanisms through for example initiatives to mainstream ageing through human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and in particular the Universal Periodic Review.

In concluding, we look forward to further discussions on ways and means to encourage full enjoyment of human rights by older persons and also to actively participating in relevant discussions on this issue during the 67th session of the General Assembly.

I thank you.