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**Statement of the Republic of Indonesia
at the
the 4th Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing**

**Delivered by
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Third Secretary**

**General Debate
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CR3 CB**

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to bid all of you who celebrated the festivities a Happy Eid al-Fitr. May the blessings of Allah be bestowed upon us all.

I would also like to express Indonesia's appreciation and support to the Bureau and Secretariat of the **4th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing**.

The comprehensive statements by the previous speakers serve as a good starting point for productive dialogue, in the next several days, towards promoting independent, qualitative and dignified life for Older Persons.

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although the circumstances of Older Persons are different in each region, the inclusion of Older Persons in the development process remains a common challenge. This demographic group

continues to face a variety of discriminatory practices that are both overlapping and cross-layered by gender, status, race, and other factors, including disability.

These conditions continue to exist despite existing international legal instruments concerning the protection and care of Older Persons which have yet to be implemented to the fullest in order to ensure decent living standards.

Against this backdrop, Indonesia wishes to highlight several important points with regards to the condition of Older Persons:

First, the aforementioned condition among Older Persons persists due to gaps in **implementation, monitoring, and information** of the existing human rights instruments which causing their ineffectiveness.

Strong governmental commitment, along with the support of all stakeholders, is the key factor in achieving the existing international obligation to protect the rights and dignity of Older Persons and promoting a higher standard of living. The role of the United Nations is also crucial in addressing the many issues being faced by vulnerable groups, including Older Persons, complementing the efforts at national level.

In that regard, I am pleased to say that the Indonesian Government is paying great attention to the issue of Older Persons, the numbers of which tends to increase, along with the problems that confront them.

Data from the **Central Bureau of Statistics** in 2010 put the numbers of Older Persons in Indonesia at **23,992,552, that is, 9.77%** of the population. The numbers increased sharply compared to 1980, when the ratio was only 5.45% of Indonesia's population, or about 7,998,543 inhabitants. By 2020, that number is expected to increase to 11.34% or approximately 28,822,879 people.

The Government of Indonesia's care and attention towards Older Persons can be seen through the adoption of a number of laws and regulations related to Older Persons, and the establishment of the National Commission on Older Persons. Those legislations include: Law No.13 of Year 1998 **on Older Persons Welfare**; Law No. 39 of Year 1999 **on Human Rights**; Law No. 28 of 2002 **on Building and Structure**; Law No. 40 of Year 2004 **on National Social Security System**; Law No. 11 of 2009 **on Social Welfare**; Law No. 36 of 2009 **on Health**; and Presidential Decree No. 52 of 2004 **on the National Commission on Ageing**.

Second, Indonesia believes that it is important to start our work that would ultimately lead to the conception of an international legal instrument that would comprehensively regulate and protect the rights of Older Persons. The much needed instrument will serve as a framework for action in the fight for the rights and protection of Older Persons, and later would be reflected throughout development processes at the national, regional, and international levels.

The fast approaching deadline for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the process leading towards the post-2015 development agenda are also other important reasons for us to pursue the initiative of an international legal instrument for Older Persons. The fact that the **MDGs did not specifically include an approach to Older Persons** has become a

valuable lesson for the international community in determining the post-2015 development agenda. An international legal instrument for Older Persons would be more than a display of the strengthening of the international commitment towards the protection of Older Persons; it would also be function importantly as a guide in the integration and mainstreaming Older Persons into the development process.

Against the backdrop, I wish to reiterate some of the main points in Indonesia's submission on the follow-up of the **Resolution 67/139 "Towards a Comprehensive and Integral International Legal Instrument to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Older Persons"**:

The purpose of establishment of international legal instruments related to Older Persons is to **strengthen** the legal basis for the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity of Older Persons. **The Basic Principles** that need to be included in it include the fundamental rights of Older Persons, the duties and Responsibilities of the State in the fulfillment of certain rights of Older Persons, and the Empowerment of Older Persons. These provisions are intended to create self-sufficiency for Older Persons; ensure the full involvement of Older Persons in the society and state and provide necessary services for Older Persons; and meet the needs of disadvantaged Older Persons.

The principles of equality and non-discrimination should be applied to Older Persons to ensure their full participation, without discrimination and on the basis of equality in family life, society and state. In this regard, the **specific types of human rights** that need to be included in future instruments are: the right to obtain suitable employment; the right to appropriate education and training; treatment of poor and neglected Older Persons; the right to health services; and the right to protection and social security.

Third, the ongoing process of reformation of Treaty Bodies should be noted and considered in the process leading up to a special international legal instrument for the protection of the Older Persons. Meanwhile, it is the belief of Indonesia that instruments and mechanisms that already exist, including **the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing**, and **the Open Ended Working Group**, should be utilized exhaustively to improve and strengthen the protection of Older Persons, both at the global and national levels.

Furthermore, the Madrid Plan of Action and other existing international instruments such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, **the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, and **the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**, also can be used as a **basis and reference for the formulation of the new instrument**.

Mr. Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia wishes to stress the importance of our meeting in the next several days in identifying the gaps in implementation of the existing human rights instruments on the ground in addressing the needs of Older Persons.

With the sole purpose of protection and improving the welfare of Older Persons in mind, Indonesia hereby reiterates its commitment to the discussion of the issue of Older Persons with a view to the creation of a specific international legal instrument on Older Persons.

I thank you.