Dear ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to UNECE on behalf of the Government of Armenia for the given opportunity to develop the road map on Ageing for our country. Special thanks to Andres Vikat and Viviane Brune for active involvement and support during the whole process.

I should say that the assistance of UNECE to develop road map has been provided in a very perfect time due to different reasons.

The Sustainable Development Programme which is one of the fundamental strategic documents for Government activities indicates the main principles and directions of social-economic development of the country. It provides basics for policy development and implementation in different spheres. The policies in various areas should lead to the realization of Sustainable Development Programme's goals and targets.

This has lead to the need to develop a Comprehensive document for Sustainable Development in Social sphere. For this purpose the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues has formulated 11 different working groups one of which was responsible for development of road map the draft strategy of Ageing was reviewed and amended by UNECE experts in order to ensure the compliance of strategy to MIPAA principles and to ensure the development of sound road map. I am not going to go into details on development process of road map, as Viviane will provide an information on that later.

I just would like to mention that the road map in fact is the action plan for the new development strategy on Ageing and these two documents will be introduced to the Government's approval together as one comprehensive document for country's Ageing Policy.

I would like to underline one very important fact that while drafting the road map both international and local experts keep the principle to be realistic in order not

to have just a nice paper but to make sure that the actions indicated there will be realized to promote implementation of MIPAA goals in Armenia. The experts take into consideration the current legislation in different sub-spheres, such as new pension reforms, social assistance, employment policies. The monitoring and evaluation indicators of the road map are developed by the international expert who was involved in development of monitoring indicators for Sustainable Development Programme and has been very well acquainted with Country Situation. The monitoring and evaluation indicators are developed in a short-term and long-term perspective which will enable to evaluate the implementation process in two years and in case of necessity make relevant amendments, particularly keeping in mind current financial-economic crisis and rapid changes.

During the process of development of Road Map different institutions have been involved, such as officials from the Ministry, experts from the National Institute of Labour and Social Researches, representatives from the main acting NGO in the Ageing Sphere ("Mission Armenia"), representatives from international organization responsible for adult learning. So it ensures that different points of views are taken into consideration which makes document to be more comprehensive.

After the mission of UNECE experts and discussions in the working group, currently the draft of Road Map is in the process of final amendments. Actually just some translations are left. Then the document will be officially submitted to different stakeholders, such as other Ministries, local governments, NGOs, social partners, international organizations and elderly people for their suggestions and comments. After receiving comments round table discussion will be conducted in order to finalize the document and submit to the Government's approval. The development of road map is not just a benefit for country itself.

I would like to bring to your attention two important facts:

- First of all it has built a capacity in the country and the model, the principles and approaches of Ageing Road Map will be used for development of Action Plans for other sub-sphere strategies which are in the process of development.

- Secondly, it can be used in other countries of the region for development of local Road Maps. Of course it can not be taken by other countries as completely ready document for them, but it can be efficiently adapted to local situation and needs, as the fundamental principles of the document are internationally accepted ones.

The situation and existing legislation does not differ too much particularly in CIS countries. We have a good example of using existing local capacity which was built by international organizations in other countries of the region. Right now our local expert with UNDESA experts is working in Tajikistan for conducting Ageing household survey there as it was done in Armenia by assistance of UNDESA. So I hope that Ageing Road Map of Armenia developed by assistance of UNECE will be useful basic document for extending the idea in the region to bring the national policies into compliance with MIPAA principles.

Thank you for your attention.

Anahit Martirosyan
24.11.2009
Geneva