

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is great honor and pleasure to present national progress towards the implementation of MIPAA/RIS at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing .

I would like to express my gratitude to UNECE for more than 10 years of support and cooperation.

**Georgia has made a significant improvement in protecting the rights, dignity, and independence of older people, as a national priority in recent years.** The Parliament of Georgia passed the following resolutions promoting implementation of MIPAA/RIS: the **Concept of State Policy on Population Ageing in Georgia**, which defines the country's priorities on ageing issues in accordance with the Madrid Action Plan. Also, the **Action Plan of Concept of State Policy on Population Ageing in Georgia 2017-2018**, which represents state policy implementation actions on ageing issues at the level of different agencies.

In addition, the Government Administration is currently coordinating the work on the **second upcoming 10 years National Human Rights Strategy of Georgia**. One of the **key goals in the strategy is to address the rights of older persons**.

One of the top priorities of the Government of Georgia (GoG) is to **recognize the potential of older persons** by ensuring high level of access to and quality of the health care services for the older population, and facilitates their active involvement in the sports and cultural activities. GoG established the Universal Health Care Program which covers uninsured population completely, including the older persons. The number of patients aged 65 and over benefiting from the UHCP is constantly increasing since 2014.

The Government of Georgia implemented programs **encouraging longer working life and ability to work**. GoG has been providing numerous state programs to promote employment of people of the retirement age who still work in the private sector and are entitled to receive old age state pension. It is notable that the labour force participation rates remain high for the population aged 65 and over. Older persons are mostly self-employed in the subsistence agriculture in the rural settlements.

Georgia has made a significant progress in terms of **ensuring ageing with dignity**. The pension system in Georgia consists of three stages/pillars: (1) universal old age pension system - non-contributory pension scheme, which plays the role of social assistance for the old age

population; (2) funded pension scheme - contributory pension scheme, where employees, employers and state have their contributions; and (3) private pension schemes.

The Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) program remains a primary mechanism for supporting the extremely vulnerable households. In addition, GoG provides other social assistance and compensation programs supporting vulnerable groups.

Despite taking important steps and measures we acknowledge that more could be done to ensure harnessing opportunities that come with population ageing.

I thank you for your attention.