

**Speech for the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing
“A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal
Opportunities Throughout Life”**

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Good afternoon, dear colleagues!

Main provisions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing remain important today, two decades after its adoption.

In the Russian Federation, caring for the older generation is a state priority. The head of state set the task of increasing the duration and improving the quality of life of all citizens.

We see that the concept of caring for the older generation is being transformed. Today it is not only care and providing of modern, high-quality medical care, but also the opportunity to lead a full, interesting and intense life.

First of all, among our priorities is the preservation of employment opportunities for older citizens. Labor law does not establish a maximum age for employment. Discrimination on the basis of age is prohibited, and old age is not a reason to refuse employment or terminate an employment relationship with an employee. At the same time, the legislation provides for certain benefits for working pensioners.

Every year, an increasing number of older citizens are involved in regional programs and projects of active ageing, adopted in all regions of our country.

Regional programs are focused on the introduction of new technologies in the field of health care, social protection, promotion of a healthy lifestyle for older citizens, strengthening of social communications, organization of the educational process in the "third age", including in the period of preparation for retirement.

There are two main vectors of such programs.

The first one is aimed at creating opportunities for realizing the potential of older people which can keep them active.

Citizens take part in training programs, including computer literacy, cultural and leisure activities, sports, and tourism. The most demanded areas are computer and financial literacy courses, which help, among other things, to protect themselves from fraud.

A network of physical culture and sports clubs is being developed with the provision of the opportunity for older people to visit them free of charge or on a preferential basis. Classes are held near the house for everyone in various types of physical activity.

Social tourism is developing, and routes are being worked out together with the elderly, taking into account the characteristics of their health and movement. Virtual trips are carried out that allow older people who are not ready to travel for various reasons to see the world online.

The “silver volunteering” movement is gaining momentum. Over 100 thousand "silver" volunteers are involved in daily volunteer practices in our country.

The second vector of these programs is aimed at supporting those older people who have completely or partially lost the ability to self-serve.

The system of long-term care is being introduced in a pilot format in certain regions of the Russian Federation. It is based on the best world practice.

Within the framework of the long-term care system, an elderly or disabled citizen, in accordance with the level of need for care, is provided with social care services aimed at supporting his state of health, nutrition, personal hygiene, mobility, social functioning, including assistance in organizing feasible daytime employment to maintain physical activity and cognitive functions.

In addition, the regions are building a new type of boarding houses with conditions close to home.

The provision of geriatric and medical care is being improved, specialized geriatric centers are being created, preventive examinations of elderly citizens are being carried out, including medical examinations, and with help of telemedicine technologies.

At the same time, we are developing information services that make it easier for older people to access various support measures.

In the Russian Federation comprehensive pension provision system is established, when all citizens older than working age receive a pension (insurance or social). Now this does not require a personal presence in the Pension Fund - it is enough to check the data in the personal account on the fund's website and send a confirmation for the appointment of a pension.

In addition, if a citizen gives consent in advance, then when a particular life situation occurs, for example disability, he receives all the necessary information in his personal account on the single website of public services: where and what support measures he can receive and with what statements.

This makes it much easier for older people to access social assistance.

We continue to work together to achieve results in the implementation of equal opportunities throughout life.

Thank you for attention!