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The Republic of Serbia: Head of Delegation, State Secretary,
Mrs. Brankica Jankovic

Ministerial Panel, 20 September 2012

You're Excellencies,
Respected Colleagues and dear Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Brankica Jankovic, I am the State Secretary responsible for family care and social protection in the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia. I would like to say that it is a great pleasure to be here today and to address this honorable Conference as well as to take part in the Panel discussion.

I would also like to give my compliments to the UN Economic Commission for Europe and to our Austrian colleagues for their very successful organization of this event.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry and particularly the new minister, who also holds the position of Vice President of the Government, I would like to add some important observations about plans which are being realized by the newly appointed Serbian Government.

First of all, I would like to point out that we are in the process of completing implementation of a new Law on Social Welfare and thereby introducing several improvements in the field of care for the elderly. A new Law on social entrepreneurship is being drafted with the aim of increasing the participation of older workers in the labor market.

At the same time, we intend to increase the number of social services open to senior citizens and enhance the variety of services in the local community and improve the offer of services in Long Term Care area. In this way we

aim to support the elderly so that they can live by their own choice in their own homes as long as possible.

The new Government's policy is to support the functioning of its Council for Aging and Old Age Issues, because this body falls under the auspices of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy and is directly responsible for national coordination and international cooperation in the field of ageing. Also, we will support active membership of Serbia in the European Working Group on Ageing.

The next gathering of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing planned to be in November this year, in Geneva, we intend to invite the Bureau to come to Belgrade for the next year's gathering in May, 2013.

In the and, I would specially like to point out, the political participation and influence of older voters which was demonstrated on last Serbian elections, as one of the most significant result of Serbia's implementation of MIPAA, in 2012.

Thank you for your attention!