

GEORGIA PRESENTATION
Ms. Ketevan GOGINASHVILI

Distinguished Chair, Working Group Members, Secretariat

It is my pleasure to express gratitude on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and intersectional working group. We deeply appreciate the valuable support and technical assistance provided by UN Economic Commission for Europe, Ms. Lidia Bratanova, Director of UN-ECE Statistical Division, Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of Population Unit, Ms. Viviane Brunne, Associate Population Affairs Officer, Dr. Erika Winkler, Head of working group of Ageing, Members of Working Group, UNFPA Country office in Georgia for development of the Road Map.

Ageing is a major issue the consequences of which Georgia will have to confront over decades to come. Georgia is a low middle-income country by the World Bank classification and its share of population aged 65 and above is expected to grow from 14.2 per cent in 2013 to 21.1 per cent in 2030. Life expectancy at birth is 74,5 years and It has a growth trend.

In the past, Georgia has not pursued ageing-related policymaking in a holistic manner; no overarching strategy had been developed that could provide general direction to all entities concerned. Policymakers was faced with the task of establishing an environment that is adjusted to the population dynamics, providing older people with the means to ensure sufficient income and social protection, access to health and care and to allow participation in all areas, thereby creating an inclusive society.

The Government has demonstrated the necessary commitment to addressing this issue head on. In 2011, during the 4th Working Group meeting Georgia requested the UNECE to prepare a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing. The Road Map, that is now presented for consideration, provides a basis for a national strategy.

Ms. Viviane will provide the Road map details, I will only underline that such a comprehensive document capturing historical, political and socio-economic context of the country, some contextual information about the country and its ageing situation, followed by an overview of the policy and the institutional frameworks is very important for Georgia. Analysis and recommendations are presented for all areas of the ten commitments mentioned in MIPAA/RIS, with additional chapters addressing migration, research and data collection as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Road Map implementation.

This Road Map is a first step in the direction of implementing MIPAA/RIS more systematically. Actually achieving mainstreaming ageing will require a more fundamental change in organizational

culture, away from thinking in silos towards a more coordinated approach. This Road Map will hopefully help by giving a good sense of direction.

The government of Georgia is working to adopt the Road Map and prepare an Action Plan, with the help of the national Interdisciplinary Working Group, which was formed with representation from relevant Ministries and non-state actors, to define the steps needed to implement the recommendations given. To implement it, Georgia should work closely with development partners – individual members of the Working Group on Ageing as well as international agencies – strategically engaging them in the implementation of the recommendations of this document.

Once again, I am pleased to thank UNECE Population Unit for assistance in the development of such important document. We promise that after one year the Government of Georgia will report back to UNECE Working Group on Ageing about progress in implementation.

Thank you for your attention.