

Open Ended Working Group on Ageing, First Working Session 18-21 April 2011

Statement by the United Kingdom

Mr. Chairman,

The United Kingdom aligns with the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

The UK supports the creation of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing, which raises the profile of demographic change, an issue which is of important to all Member States and in fact the global community.

We are looking forward to engage in a constructive dialogue with all delegations and experts during this week of the first working session of the Group. We hope this will encourage an increase in inter-regional co-operation through the exchange of information and best practices on active ageing, innovative health and care solutions, as well as older people's contribution to their communities through a range of activities including volunteering.

The timing of this Open Ended Working Group is crucial in raising the awareness of the demographic changes which will take place over the next 50 years and which will surely change the society we live in.

We see this week as an excellent opportunity to consider, plan and put in place the right infrastructure to best support older people and an ageing society. It is important that the Working Group remains focussed on this strategic opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Kingdom has been very active concerning measures related to the demographic changes, this includes a review of existing pension's arrangements, changes to the current retirement age (including aligning the retirement ages for men and women) and a current review of care services.

For the UK, the promotion of active ageing is an underpinning concept, with responsibility on the individual to adopt and lead a healthier lifestyle.

Thank you very much.