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Statement by

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to the United Nations New York

at the

the 5th Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing

General Debate

New York, 30 July 2014

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Mr. Chair,

I congratulate you on assuming the leadership of the Bureau and to extend our congratulations to other members of the Bureau.

Let me assure you of Indonesia's unwavering support and cooperation for the successful deliberation of the **5th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing**.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In taking up the issue of ageing on this auspicious occasion, we should celebrate the fact that more and more people are living healthy, productive lives.

However, older persons still face a variety of discriminatory practices that are both overlapping and cross-layered by gender, status, race, and other factors, including disability.

Obviously, ageing comes with disadvantages. However, there are gains that shouldn't be overlooked. The end of the MDGs timeline has indeed presented us with the opportunity to secure the role of older persons in the next development agenda. It is important to close the gaps in implementation, monitoring, and information on the existing human rights instruments to ensure the dignity of older persons.

For the purpose of the post-2015 development agenda, there are three main points that the Open Ended Working Group should emphasize:

First, a commitment to an age-friendly society must come from the top leadership.

Second, it's important to promote action at all levels that will produce healthy and engaged older persons.

Third, develop further the policy framework and infrastructures at all levels that would tap the real talents and potential contributions that healthy older people can make to societies. We must get rid of mixed messages about working and replace them with calls for all able citizens to contribute to the welfare of societies.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The approximate number of older persons in Indonesia has reached 26.5 million in 2013. By 2020, the number is expected to reach 28.8 million. By that time, Older Persons will compose about 11% of Indonesia's general population.

From an Indonesian cultural perspective, while we understand that there is a loss in physical resilience, the elderly gain emotional resilience that comes later in life. The elderly also contribute to social cohesion, such as assuming the caretaking role for the children of working parents. We view their contribution as beneficial for the economy and society.

For these reasons, it is imperative not just to ensure the protection of the rights of Older Persons, but also to promote a dignified and full-life for older persons. **Active Ageing** should continuously be promoted and encouraged in older persons' family and society.

To address the multifold challenges faced by older persons, the Government of Indonesia has launched various policies and programmes, inter alia: the **Healthy Indonesia Programme**, which aims to achieve the highest degree of health quality of the people, including the elderly; Pilot Projects on **Day Care Services and Home Care Services for Older People** in major provinces; and the **Second National Plan of Action on Ageing Population** for 2014-2019.

At the global level, a specific international legal instrument for the protection of the Older Persons has indeed become an aspiration for many, in the hope to better protect the rights and dignity of Older Persons and promote a higher standard of living. And taking note from recent inter-governmental dialogue under the UN, the subject matter will indeed continue to be an issue of interest in future discourses.

Nevertheless, even in the absence of a legal instrument, it should not hinder Governments and all stakeholders, including the United Nations, from translating commitments into real actions, to address challenges faced by older persons, including gaps in development.

We believe the related existing instruments and mechanisms, including **the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**, and this very own **Open Ended Working Group on Ageing**, should be utilized exhaustively to improve and strengthen the protection of Older Persons, both at the global and national levels.

Against the backdrop, I wish to end our statement by reiterating the importance of this Open Ended Working Group to further identify the implementation gaps of the existing Human Rights instruments, to further address the needs of older persons on the ground.

I thank you.