

## Tabriz Statement

The Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in collaboration with UNFPA and HelpAge International held a Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing in Tabriz in July 2017. The Participants

Recognize:

- The importance of population ageing as a significant demographic trend of 21<sup>st</sup> century. This demographic shift has deep socio-economic implications.
- Inaction is not an option. Adaptation to this major change in population structure is a priority for policymakers and for our societies as a whole.

Affirm:

- The importance of developing integrated, evidence-based and culturally sensitive policy frameworks as well as mainstreaming ageing into national strategies and development plans.
- Policies related to population ageing have long-term perspective, focusing on present and future older persons. Particular attention is required for older women, considering the specific vulnerabilities over the life course.
- The necessity of adapting Health and Long-term Care Systems to population ageing, investing across the life course in prevention, education and self-care, as well as promotion of healthy and active ageing.
- The rewards of economic growth need to be shared among older people, ensuring income security, so as to live in dignity and independently. Social protection schemes, including social pensions become crucial instruments of economic policies and inclusive growth.
- Organizations of older persons and communities as well as families are potential sources of support in ageing societies, ensuring active participation and social inclusion of older people.
- Sustainability and equity are the main considerations for designing systems adapted to population ageing.

International experts from Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Pakistan as well as UNFPA and HelpAge International express deep gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for its warm hospitality. We commit to further enhance mutual learning and sharing experiences on population ageing related issues in the scope of South-South cooperation frameworks.

4 July 2017

Tabriz, I.R. Iran