Excellencies, My name is Roseline Kihumba. I am a member of HelpAge International from Kenya, speaking for the Stakeholder Group on Ageing on the interests of over 800 million older persons globally.

Our Group is pleased with the Goals and Targets negotiated by you, the Member-States. They reflect your agreement that the post-2015 development agenda should be universal: that no one is to be left behind. We are also pleased that our inputs were taken into account and that, as a result, specific reference was made to older persons or people of all ages in numerous places. We agree this negotiated agreement on Goals and Targets should not be reopened. We also agree, with many Member-States and others, that no goal or target should be considered met unless it is met for all groups and therefore stresses the critical importance of data disaggregation by age, gender, disability status, income, etc. in reporting progress.

Looking forward to the negotiations in the coming months:

(1) Our Group will be calling for the inclusion of some reference in the planned political Declaration to the 2002 Second World Assembly on Ageing, whether to the Assembly itself, its Political Declaration or its outcome, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

(2) Our Group emphasizes the need for financing for building the necessary statistical and reporting systems in many developing countries and for achieving the social protection and health targets.

(3) Our Group will be paying careful attention and responding to proposed Indicators to assure ourselves that the impact on older persons of the Goals and Targets can be measured.

(4) Our Group joins other groups in calling for robust and comprehensive monitoring and accountability mechanisms anchored on transparency, participation and the right to information.

In conclusion, the Stakeholder Group on Ageing looks forward to working constructively with you in building the framework for achieving a sustainable planet supporting a society for all ages where extreme poverty has been eradicated.