Item EB146/23: Decade of Health Aging

Thank you, Chair.

We would like to thank the secretariat for the report and for preparing the draft for the "Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030" before us which we fully support.

The ageing of the population presents multiple challenges to our health systems, social security system, labour market and society in general. It is for this reason that action that extends beyond the health sector is needed to ensure healthy ageing for all.

Last year, Israel concluded work on a comprehensive set of recommendations on the promotion of Active and healthy ageing. This process was led by a multi-sectoral team, including representatives from different Ministries as well as civil society.

At the outset, we would like to stress one point. The importance of healthy ageing stems from the fact that by achieving it, people would enjoy better health, longer and more meaningful lives. While this surely results in economic and social benefits for society, we should not confuse these positive outcomes with the reason for our actions: supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of people in the second half of their lives.

We would like to stress 2 points regarding the draft before us.

1) **Firstly**, we believe that the definition of "healthy ageing" was carefully and accurately crafted, as "developing and maintaining" a person's "functional ability" in various contexts. We specifically welcome the reference to the social environment in which a person lives in, as part of this definition.

2) **Secondly**, while the indicators suggested to track progress reflect some elements of this definition, the draft could profit from a more focused list of indicators, which are more closely linked with the definition presented.

We encourage the secretariat to continue the close collaboration with other agencies and UN bodies throughout the decade in order to increase efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts.

Thank you.