

Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. Executive Director,
Excellencies

Distinguished NGO Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my special honour and satisfaction to greet this important meeting on behalf of the Republic of Serbia. The improvement of the living conditions and well-being of all people that the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development has dealt with for 20 years is just as compelling and relevant today as it was at the time when the Programme was adopted.

The Cairo Principles set down the direction for United Nations Member States to go in their activity. The fact that the exercise of human rights and dignity, age and gender equality, empowerment of women, protection of reproductive health and rights and the right to education for all are part of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is indicative of the significance of these

fact that the worker-to-retiree ratio in Serbia today is one to one. 30 years ago the ratio was four to one.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, Serbia is making every effort to improve the position of the

old people. The Council on Ageing and the Old Age Affairs was established in 2007 as an expert