**Meeting:**

Seventy-first World Health Assembly (A71/1)

**Agenda Item:**

20.3.3.1H. Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life (resolution WHA69.3 (2016))

**Statement:**

Thank you for giving HelpAge International the opportunity to make this statement.

HelpAge congratulates WHO and Member States on the progress made in implementing the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health. We are encouraged to see the positive steps that have been taken over the last two years, particularly in relation to the review of regional strategies and the development of national strategies on ageing and health. These lay the foundation for further action over the coming three years and for the decade on healthy ageing. HelpAge has been pleased to support work on national strategy development in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

HelpAge also commends WHO for the concrete steps taken to provide guidance to build capacity at the national level and within health systems. The work to develop guidelines on integrated care is key, as is the recognition of the need to support caregivers, including those caring for older people with dementia. We welcome the work done to develop metrics to measure healthy ageing. This work aligns well with the efforts of the new Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data, endorsed earlier this year by the UN Statistical Commission.

HelpAge continues to make progress in promoting healthy ageing in our work. In Lebanon we have been supporting the training of health workers in older people’s health to ensure better alignment of the health system to older people’s needs. We are also working with the Asian Development Bank on a regional project to strengthen long term care systems in six countries. Diagnostic studies on the long-term care systems of the countries are nearly complete and capacity building towards national strategies is underway. We are also pleased to be collaborating with WHO on a global campaign to combat ageism and have consulted older people on the aims of the campaign to ensure their voice is heard.

HelpAge remains committed to the healthy ageing agenda and to collaborating to ensure its implementation. Thank you.