Namaskar!

I am Dr Asha Vijai Rao, from Gharonda, India.

I express my gratitude to the Office of HRHC for organizing this meeting.

Respected Chair, Panelists and Audience-

All the countries have laws and policies for the welfare of older persons but lack the coordinated efforts making these laws and policies toothless. The media is filled with stories of rape murder, property grabbing, abandonment and exploitation of elders-emotionally, physically, mentally, financially and sexually by those they trust the most. Insurance companies are no exception.

Access to affordable health services is minimal in rural and remote areas. Serious research to enable older persons to Age with Rights and Dignity is missing.

I is vital to act now.

We need a global binding instrument to strengthen existing frame work to defeat Ageism and discrimination.

Madam Chair, without standardization of minimum standards coordinated actions cannot be strengthened.

The absence of a dedicated International Human Rights framework hampers the design, adoption and implication of the Human rights based policies for older persons of the world

Thanks for this opportunity.

Namaskar.