**Session 3: Strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of older persons**

Deputy Commissioner for protection of equality, Republic of Serbia, Tatjana Prijić

Ladies and gentleman,

First of all, I would like to thank the panelists and other participants for their valuable interventions. The Commissioner for protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia has the rights of Older persons very high on the list of its priorities. Therefore, when we speak about strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of Older persons, I would like to point out that The Commissioner compiled and submitted to the National Assembly a Special report on discrimination of Older persons. This report was first of its kind in the region of Southeastern Europe and resulted in putting the protection and advancement of rights of Older persons high on the social and political agenda. Furthermore, During the National conference on combating ageism, which was held simultaneously with the Regional conference on the same topic and attended by all relevant actors in the field of protection of Human rights of Older persons, The Commissioner issued the call for action for ending discrimination as well as for their full inclusion into all areas of the society. The call contains guidelines for further comprehensive and coordinated activities and encourages involvement of various stakeholders starting from central level to local authorities and Civil Society Organizations. This is I believe the path for strengthening coordinated actions as well as sustainability and continuous interest of social actors about the issue of protection and advancement of rights of Older persons.

Finally, I am looking forward to other interventions and exchanges of good practice that can benefit our future work and I thank you all for your attention.