



forefront to reduce the cost of remittances to no more than 5 % and has fostered consultations among all concerned stakeholders, creating an ad hoc Working Group on Remittances.

Finally, Madame Chair, let me stress that aging is a serious concern for several developed countries and will soon become a major issue in most parts of the world: longer life spans and lower fertility - desirable and welcome as they may be - alter the shape of the age structure. Traditional systems of support for the old age are getting weaker; pension systems, where they exist, are under stress; and new health issues, linked to old age, are emerging. Preparing for a better future means that these topics will soon have to be faced openly.

I thank you, Madame Chair.