IAHPC would like to thank the chair and all delegates and the member states in the room, particularly the Latin American states and the Philippines, who are committed to pursuing a binding convention. We are the mustard seed that will grow into a great tree to protect the rights of aging persons, a group to which we **all** belong. The structural violence and abuse we have heard about in the last few days, are perpetrated by **systems**, when there is no one person to indict for the abuse. These structural abuses calls for structural solutions: for binding global, not just regional standards, no matter how excellent. Global standards that address global violations can usher in a measure of global justice.

Lack of access to controlled medicines such as morphine for the relief of pain in 75% perpetrates structural violence and abuse on people suffering from treatable pain from cancer and other traumatic conditions. This sort of pain is equivalent to torture, according to the Special Rapporteurs, and is the **ultimate** form of violence and neglect by health systems. This is the case both in the home, as well as in long term care, and in prisons, where a growing population of older persons is dying abandoned, neglected, and with no access to palliative care or pain medicine.

System perpetrated, like individually perpetrated, neglect and abuse are issues that impact older persons throughout the global community. They will impact all of **us** as we age, which is why **we all** need a global binding instrument. Palliative care is a best practice to prevent structural elder abuse in the health care system, protecting and supporting the most vulnerable, including caregivers, the majority of whom are older women.

We urge Member States to consider the following substantive areas in the next session, which we request be held for four days with fully budgeted translation services:
  ◦ Right to autonomy and independence
  ◦ Right to long-term and palliative care
  ◦ Right to health and access to health services

I thank you.