

Embargoed Till After Delivery

Please Check Against Delivery

**PREPARING FOR AN AGEING POPULATION –
THE SINGAPORE EXPERIENCE**

**BY MR CHAN SOO SEN, MINISTER OF STATE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE &
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY
ON AGEING IN MADRID, SPAIN, ON 10 APRIL 2002**

Mr President

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by congratulating the United Nations for organising this Assembly, which brings together stakeholders from all over the world to discuss how we can better address the shared challenges of population ageing.

2 The International Plan of Action on Ageing, which was adopted at the 1st World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna in 1982, sought to lay out a comprehensive set of principles and guidelines on how countries can go about addressing the complex issues and challenges surrounding an ageing society. The Plan was the first international instrument on ageing. It has strengthened the capacity of Governments and civil societies to deal effectively with population ageing and promoted regional and international cooperation in this area.

3 I salute all those involved in developing the first Plan for their vision and far sightedness. I also congratulate the organisers of this 2nd World Assembly for championing this spirit of sharing policy experiences and best practices in the field of population ageing.

4 The phenomenon of an ageing population is one faced by many countries, including Singapore. Today, it is my pleasure to share Singapore's experience in this area. Over the past 3-4 years, we have made some headway in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by population