PLENARY SESSION: Nicholas Ratut, Board Chair, Clubhouse International, discussing what has been accomplished since the founding of Clubhouse International in 1994.

To give you some idea of what has been accomplished in those 25 years:

- We have seen our Training Bases train more than 1,500 Clubhouse groups and almost 4,000 individuals
- Clubhouse International has organized 13 World Seminars with more than 9,000 participants attending more than 1,000 workshops, institutes and plenary sessions relating to Clubhouse practice
- We have had your help reviewing and improving our International Standards 12 times and included the ideas and voices of thousands of Clubhouses members and staff each time
- We have conducted 800 accreditation processes validating success and helping to strengthen Clubhouses everywhere
- More than 200 Clubhouse members and staff were trained and gave their time to conducting the accreditation process
- And we estimate that between 500,000 and 1 million unique individuals became a member of a Clubhouse

In this past year, based on estimates from data your Clubhouses submitted in their Clubhouse Profile Questionnaires:

- Clubhouse programs accessed almost 200 million US dollars in public and private funding for our Clubhouse programs
- Clubhouses provided about 800,000 hours of programs and services
- Approximately 500,000 Reachout Contacts were made to absent members from their Clubhouse colleagues
- Clubhouse members earned more than 50 million dollars from Transitional, Supported and Independent employment

**Together we have made a difference in the world!**

Earlier this morning and throughout the next four days you will hear stories of individual and collective success demonstrating the difference Clubhouses make all the time.

Never in the world has there been a time when Mental Health is so much to the forefront in the media with so many positive mental health initiatives and charities, yet there is still great misunderstanding and stigma that we can all fight against by first simply talking about who we are and what we do.

We are winning over hearts and minds slowly but surely so our focus is on finding ways to have a higher profile on the world stage. We are very good at starting, training and accrediting Clubhouses - we need to leverage our collective resources to make a greater difference in public awareness and local government bodies, and demystify what it is we do to help people regain their lives through our communities.