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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thirteenth meeting
Geneva, 7 March 2007

DECISION ON MATTERS RELATING TO UNECE WORK ON POPULATION

Programme of work on Population for 2007

Note by the secretariat¹

At its eleventh and twelfth meetings (Geneva, 11 December 2006 and 9 February 2007), the Executive Committee reviewed the work of the UNECE Population Activities Unit and requested it to present the programme of work for approval.

The Executive Committee is invited to approve the attached programme of work on Population for 2007.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

¹ The document is submitted less than 12 weeks before the meeting to which it relates, because of the short time interval between the two meetings of the Executive Committee (of 9 February 2007 and 7 March 2007) that deal with this matter.

ANNEX

PROGRAMME OF WORK ON POPULATION FOR 2007

Thematic Area A: Ageing

In September 2002, the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing adopted the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS), which includes a concrete catalogue of measures in the form of ten commitments. The UNECE secretariat continues to assist member States in implementing the Strategy and in their evaluation of achievements, as called upon in the Strategy. With support from the Government of Austria, an expert task force is advising the secretariat on substantive issues of MIPAA/RIS, and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research is developing indicators and maintaining a specialized website related to monitoring the implementation of the Strategy.

The UNECE secretariat has invited member States to nominate focal points on ageing. Their meeting in November 2006 (supported by the Government of Spain and the United Nations Population Fund) reviewed the regional level work in support of MIPAA/RIS, discussed policies pertaining to the labour market and social protection, identified needs for capacity development, and agreed upon the modalities of preparations to the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing.

Main activities and outputs in 2007

1. Meeting of the Expert Group (Vienna, 26-27 February) to provide policy advice and expert assistance to the intergovernmental open-ended Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing. The meeting discusses draft papers on developments in each of the key areas of MIPAA/RIS and makes proposals for the political declaration and agenda items for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing.
2. Workshop on the issues relevant for MIPAA/RIS follow-up in the countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Chisinau, 13-15 March), to develop capacities for formulation policies and programmes considering the onset of population ageing in those countries. This workshop will be supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
3. First meeting (May) of the intergovernmental open-ended Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing. Based on the input provided by the Expert Group, the Preparatory Committee will elaborate the content and decide on the modalities of the Conference, including the agenda, the background document and the political declaration.
4. Second meeting (León, Spain, 5 November) of the Preparatory Committee immediately before the Conference on Ageing to clarify any outstanding issues and to finalize the Draft Political Declaration.
5. UNECE Conference on Ageing (León, Spain, 6-8 November) will consider the findings of national reviews, share experiences and good practices and identify priorities for future action in the form of a political declaration. The Conference will include a high-level

segment on the ministerial level. It will be the main event in the first five-year cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA in the UNECE region.

Thematic Area B: Generations and Gender

At the Meeting on Generations and Gender (Geneva, 2000), member States invited the UNECE secretariat to organize another round of region-wide data collection and research on population issues, based on the Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) and the conclusions of its follow-up conferences organized by the UNECE. The Meeting initiated the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which comprises two main elements: (1) a survey that deals with a broad range of influences on demographic behaviour in a longitudinal panel study, and (2) a related Contextual Database that covers national and regional trends and policies on these issues.

In 2006, Georgia, Lithuania and Romania collected data of the first wave of the survey, which brought the total number of countries that have collected these data to 14. Three more countries tested their national survey instruments and are embarking on the survey in 2007. The contextual database has been made available online.

The UNECE secretariat continues to coordinate the Programme, with support from a consortium of seven premier institutions in the field of population studies. Work of the Programme Manager at the UNECE is carried out on extrabudgetary funds. In 2007, a grant from the European Commission will provide these funds.

Main activities and outputs in 2007

1. A meeting of the International Working Group (IWG) of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) (Ljubljana, 18-20 January) decided on the format of standard analytic outputs of the Programme, exchanged experiences on its national implementation, and discussed issues related to accessibility and dissemination of the collected micro-data.
2. Establishment of the data archive of the Generations and Gender Survey for disseminating micro-data for comparative research on population issues.
3. Publication of the concept papers of the Generations and Gender Survey and the Generations and Gender Contextual Database.
4. Preparation of standard tables and indicators of the GGP and making them available through the website of the Programme.
5. Meetings of the GGP Consortium Board (one in spring and one in autumn) will discuss the inputs of the Consortium institutions to further development of the GGP, and elaborate proposals for the Conference on Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change: Policy-Relevant Insights from the Generations and Gender Programme. The Conference is planned for spring 2008 as a high-level meeting of experts and policymakers demonstrating the novel insights the GGP provides for developing population-related policies in the UNECE region.

6. Preparation of the 2008 conference on Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change, including engagement of consultants to develop a number of solicited papers in the key policy areas (with support of the grant from the European Commission).
