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WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

Second meeting
Geneva, 23–24 November 2009

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AGEING ON ITS SECOND MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Attendance

1. The second meeting of the Working Group on Ageing was held on 23 and 24 November 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
2. Representatives from the following 27 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) participated: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan.
3. The European Commission was also represented.
4. Holy See participated as an observer State.
5. Representatives from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna) participated.

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6. Representatives of the following six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated: the European Federation of Older Persons, the NGO Committee on Ageing, Help the Aged, HelpAge International, the International Federation of Ageing and the International Network on the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The total number of participants was 55. A full list is available on the meeting website¹.

B. Organizational matters

7. The Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE made an opening statement.

8. The Working Group approved its agenda as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2009/1.

9. The Working Group elected the representative of Slovakia as its Chairperson and a representative of Armenia as its Vice-Chairperson. Delegates of the following member States were elected to the Bureau: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Malta, Serbia and Spain.

II. WORK OF THE BUREAU

10. The Chair informed the Working Group about the first meeting of the Bureau (Bratislava, 11–12 May 2009), referencing the report on the Bureau meeting (ECE/WG.1/2009/3).

III. INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION

11. A keynote speech on intergenerational relationships in ageing societies was delivered by a distinguished expert from the Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands).

12. Representatives of the following member States presented projects and policies in the area of intergenerational relationships in their respective countries: Armenia, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. A representative of HelpAge International reported on intergenerational relationships in Kyrgyzstan.

13. The keynote paper on intergenerational relationships in ageing societies prepared for the in-depth discussion will be updated in the light of the discussion, complemented with examples of policies and programmes, and published.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/wg2/bgdocs.htm>

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009–2010

A. Policy briefs with good-practice examples

14. The secretariat explained the concept of the policy briefs and reported on the work accomplished on the basis of advice from the Bureau, including the launch of the series UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing and the related media coverage. The first four policy briefs were available at the UNECE website². The Working Group decided to follow their structure and format in preparing further briefs in the series. The Working Group requested its members to ensure a good quality of translation of the briefs into their countries' languages, to follow their original layout, to disseminate them, to transmit an electronic copy of the national version to the secretariat, and to encourage contributions from non-governmental stakeholders on innovative approaches and practices for inclusion in further briefs.

15. The secretariat presented drafts of two further policy briefs on (a) lifelong learning and (b) health promotion and the prevention of diseases and accidents. The Working Group discussed them and provided comments to be considered in the final version.

16. The Working Group decided to make available to its members all the collected unedited examples of good policy practice, including those examples not included in the policy briefs. However, it was decided not to disseminate the unedited examples openly through the Web.

17. The Working Group decided on the topics of the following policy briefs, to be prepared and presented at its next session:

- (a) Towards community long-term care;
- (b) Advancing intergenerational solidarity;
- (c) Tapping the potential of volunteering;
- (d) Age-friendly employment policies and practices.

B. Monitoring implementation: developing indicators, collecting data, disseminating information

18. The European Centre Vienna presented monitoring activities in data collection and visualization, the conceptual development of indicators on gender issues and on long-term care, and the dissemination of monitoring information through the specialized website³. Representatives of the Czech Republic and Georgia gave brief accounts of their data collection activities.

² www.unece.org/pau/age/Policy_briefs

³ www.monitoringris.org

20. Based on comments by the Working Group and on a subsequent expert workshop, the European Centre Vienna would finalize lists of long-term care and gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators and the related methodological descriptions. After this, data collection related to these indicators from international sources and member countries would start. Further efforts would be undertaken to retrieve and update data for more countries in substantive areas where monitoring indicators had already been developed. The collected indicators would be displayed in country profiles on the monitoring website. Working Group members also agreed to provide detailed comments on the reorganized website⁴.

C. Capacity development

19. Armenia reported on the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing project, first carried out in that country by a joint team of international and local experts. Outcomes included a national strategy and action plan on ageing. The secretariat provided information on the conceptual and organizational aspects of the project. Once the Road Map was finalized, the project's process would be documented in detail to facilitate the exercise in other countries. The Working Group expected the Road Map project to be undertaken in one more country in 2010. Georgia and the Republic of Moldova had expressed their interest.

20. Delegates of the Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia and Uzbekistan who had participated in subregional training workshops reported on how these workshops had supported them in their work and provided suggestions for organizing such workshops in the future. Israel and Slovenia offered to host a subregional workshop which would discuss, among others, the implementation and outcome of the Road Map in Armenia.

V. FINANCING OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

21. The secretariat provided information on the financial contributions received and their use. Working Group members expressed their willingness to explore possibilities for their countries' voluntary contributions to the trust fund, to support the Working Group's activities.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

22. The Chairperson presented the summary and decisions of the first meeting of the Working Group on Ageing. The Working Group agreed that its next annual meeting would be held on 22 and 23 November 2010. The Bureau will meet on 27 and 28 May 2010 in Malta.

23. The Chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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⁴ www.monitoringris.org/new