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WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

Second meeting
Geneva, 23–24 November 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AGEING**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This note contains the report of the first meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, which was held on 11 and 12 May 2009. The Bureau took decisions on each of the four main activities of the Working Group's programme of work (ECE/WG.1/2008/3) and proposed the agenda for the Working Group's second meeting. This report summarizes this information, which is supporting the Working Group's programme of work as many of the issues and proposals agreed at the Bureau meeting will be presented and considered at this second meeting of the Working Group.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing was held on 11 and 12 May 2009 in Bratislava at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

A. Attendance

2. The following member States were represented in the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Malta, Slovakia and Spain. Two representatives from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna, ECV) participated in the meeting. As a representative of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the European Federation of Older Persons participated. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat was also represented.

B. Organization of work

3. The Chairperson of the Bureau welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. On the second day of the meeting, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovakia delivered a welcome address to the Bureau.

4. The Bureau adopted the agenda.

II. POLICY BRIEFS WITH GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

5. The secretariat presented drafts of four policy briefs on the following topics:

- (a) Mainstreaming ageing;
- (b) Gender equality, work and old age;
- (c) Older persons as consumers;
- (d) Integration and participation of older persons in society.

6. The Bureau discussed the four policy briefs and agreed on certain revisions, e.g. the inclusion of a systematic checklist at the end of each policy brief. Bureau members were requested to provide written comments and suggestions for editorial changes in writing, as well as further good practice examples, by 10 June 2009.

7. Armenia expressed its commitment to translating the policy briefs into Russian.

8. The topics suggested for future policy briefs were:

- (a) Health promotion and prevention of disease and accidents;
- (b) Long-term care;

- (c) Lifelong learning;
- (d) Intergenerational relationships.

III. AGEING POLICIES: THE CASE OF SLOVAKIA

9. Representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family presented recent activities and initiatives in the area of ageing, including a Government Council for Seniors, a Government Council for Disabled Persons and a new Act on Social Services. The latter was introduced on 1 January 2009, and set new conditions for the provision and funding of social services.

IV. INDICATORS AND WEBSITE FOR MONITORING

10. ECV reported on the steps undertaken and planned for developing monitoring indicators in the areas of gender and long-term care, for collecting the data required for their computation, and for disseminating the indicators. A provisional list of care indicators, including disability and health status, living arrangements, informal care, and public expenditure, was presented at the meeting. This list and the specification of the methodology would be further discussed in a technical workshop in September 2009. The Bureau advised ECV to go ahead with implementing these plans.

11. ECV presented a plan to restructure the monitoring website (www.monitoringRIS.org). The main change would be the change of the existing global, regional, national and local layout into a navigation tree layout, which is expected to improve the website's user-friendliness and clarity. After providing and discussing the website reorganization in detail, the Bureau advised ECV to proceed with the implementation of the new structure.

V. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

12. The secretariat presented its first steps in preparing a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia.

13. Armenia reported on recent developments in the area of ageing, including a household survey and an emerging strategy on ageing, for which the Road Map would be helpful.

14. The Bureau appreciated the steps taken and welcomed the progress made. Members of the Bureau highlighted that some of the insights gained in this process would be of relevance beyond Armenia. Interaction with civil society was an integral part of the exercise; this would comprise a number of interviews with experts from government, NGOs and other sectors. The Bureau highlighted that such an approach had considerable potential to be extended to other countries, and decided that the work on the Armenian Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing should be continued according to the plans presented.

VI. ANALYSIS OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

15. The secretariat presented a rationale for comparative analysis of intergenerational relationships in different cultural and policy contexts, based on research projects that use the data collected in the UNECE Generations and Gender Programme.

16. The Bureau decided to continue the work on the research project on intergenerational relationships as suggested, and to organize an in-depth discussion of the topic at the second meeting of Working Group.

VII. AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

17. The secretariat presented a draft for the provisional agenda of the Working Group on Ageing's second meeting, scheduled for 23 and 24 November 2009. The Bureau suggested some changes in the ordering and grouping of items.

VIII. REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the Working Group's envisaged reporting to the UNECE Executive Committee.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

19. The secretariat informed the Bureau about one voluntary contribution for the Working Group's activities that had been received to date. Bureau members committed themselves to investigating possibilities for their respective ministries to provide contributions.

X. SUMMARY AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING

20. The Chairperson presented the summary and decisions of the first meeting of the Bureau. It was decided that the Bureau would meet again after the Working Group's second meeting. The representative of Malta offered to host the next meeting of the Bureau in Malta.

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

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