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Discussion on the second cycle of review and appraisal of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Preparations for the second review and appraisal of implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. This note outlines modalities of the second cycle of the review and appraisal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA) in 2012, including proposals for organizing the ministerial conference on ageing.
2. The Commission for Social Development is the intergovernmental body responsible for follow-up and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA.¹ At its forty-second session in 2004, the Commission decided to undertake a review and appraisal of MIPAA every five years (resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004). The first review and appraisal was undertaken in 2007, and the second review and appraisal exercise is due in 2012, during the tenth anniversary year of the Second World Assembly on Ageing.
3. At its most recent session in February 2010, the Commission for Social Development considered options for future modalities for the review and appraisal process, and more specifically, its procedures and calendar. The Commission decided that the procedure for the second review and appraisal would follow the set procedure of the first

¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

review and appraisal exercise and should include preparatory activities at national and regional levels, including those conducted by the regional commissions, to conclude in 2012 (resolution 48/1, para. 15). At the global level, the review and appraisal will be conducted by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session in 2013 (resolution 48/1, para. 16). The Commission for Social Development has acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of MIPAA, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents.

4. The Commission has endorsed the theme for the second review and appraisal exercise: “Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: social situation, well-being and dignity, development and the full realization of all human rights for older persons”.

II. First review and appraisal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2007

5. The first review and appraisal of MIPAA was undertaken in 2007, five years after the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid and the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin. The 2007 review and appraisal exercise was conducted at three levels: national, regional and global.

6. In the UNECE region, the focus of national enquiries was on outlining and measuring achievements in reaching the objectives of the 10 commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. As the first step, member States identified substantive areas for in-depth analysis and used a bottom-up participatory approach as well as various quantitative methods for evaluating national implementation processes. The data was drawn from both ongoing and new studies on ageing, including cross-sectoral (assessing the impact of policies across several sectors) and longitudinal (observing a specific policy impact over a longer period of time) studies. The assessment focused on policies, laws and regulations adopted and/or modified since the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin in 2002; on programmes established to adjust to demographic change; on measures to adapt the physical environment; and on the annual allocation and rates of change of corresponding budgetary provision. To assist member States in their review and appraisal exercise, the UNECE secretariat provided Guidelines for Reporting on National Follow-up to the UNECE RIS/MIPAA².

7. Member states summarized the findings of the review and appraisal in their national reports. Thirty-one countries submitted their reports prior to the established deadline for including national findings into the summary report on the implementation of RIS/MIPAA,³ and thirty-seven countries contributed in total. The national findings were discussed and analysed at the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which was organized at the initiative of the Government of Spain and conducted in León, Spain, from 6 to 8 November 2007.⁴

8. The Government of Spain provided financial, substantive and administrative support for preparing and conducting the Conference. The Preparatory Committee for the 2007

² http://www.unece.org/pau/age/country_rpts/welcome.htm.

³ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/mica2007/bgdocs1.htm>.

⁴ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/mica2007/welcome.htm>.

Ministerial Conference on Ageing⁵ consisted of national focal points on ageing with the representative of Spain as Chair and the representative of Austria as Vice-Chair. A Bureau of the preparatory committee was also elected at its first meeting in July 2007.⁶ In preparation for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing, an Expert Group was formed to provide policy advice and expert assistance to the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee of the Conference. This Expert Group consisted of leading experts on ageing from a broad cross-section of professional, geographic and organizational backgrounds. The meeting of the Expert Group was held in Vienna, Austria, on 26 and 27 February 2007 and was hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection.⁷

9. The preparatory process for the 2007 Ministerial Conference on Ageing included two meetings of the Preparatory Committee held in July 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland, and in November 2007 in León, Spain, immediately prior to the Conference. At the meeting in Geneva, the UNECE secretariat presented the road map leading to the 2007 Ministerial Conference, which was adopted by the committee. A draft agenda and various themes for the conference were also discussed. The second meeting of the preparatory committee was mainly concerned with reviewing the preparations of the conference and drafting its ministerial declaration. To monitor the preparatory process, a meeting of Bureau was held in October 2007.

10. The regional conference, entitled “A society for all ages: challenges and opportunities” was held from 6 to 8 November 2007 in the Parador de San Marcos, Leon, Spain. It was attended by 285 participants from 45 UNECE member States. The conference included three segments: a plenary segment (0.5 days), a panel segment (1.5 days) and a ministerial segment (1 day). At the plenary segment, the agenda was adopted, a Chair and Vice-Chair were elected and an overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region was undertaken. At the panel segment, six panel discussions were held on the following subjects: creating integrated approaches to mainstream ageing; participation and social inclusion; towards a balanced care strategy; living longer — working longer: challenges for education, labour market and social protection; intergenerational collaboration; and focusing on opportunities: active ageing. The ministerial segment included a series of presentations by the Ministers from various UNECE countries, as well as the elaboration and adoption of the ministerial declaration on ageing.

11. Two satellite events were also sponsored by the Spanish Government and conducted on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference: the Forum of Non-governmental Organizations, and the Research Forum, both held on 5 November 2007. Conducting the forums of two major groups of stakeholders — civil society and researchers — provided an opportunity for them to contribute to the work of the Conference and inform its debate. The conclusions and recommendations of these two forums were summarized in their final documents and presented at the plenary meeting of the ministerial segment of the Conference.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/mica2007/welcomePP.htm>

⁶ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/mica2007/PCI/welcome.htm>

⁷ <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/mica2007/XG/ViennaWelcome.htm>

III. Proposals for organizing the second cycle of the review and appraisal in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

12. Following the decisions of the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development and taking into account the experience gained during the first review and appraisal of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA in 2007, the modalities for the second review and appraisal exercise are outlined below for the consideration of the Working Group on Ageing.

13. The national phase of the second review and appraisal will be conducted in 2011–2012. According to the decisions of the Commission for Social Development, the procedure of the second review and appraisal will follow the set procedure of the first review and appraisal exercise. In this connection, the members of the Working Group are reminded that the principal approach to the first review and appraisal was a bottom-up participatory approach that envisaged collecting the information on the implementation of progress at the grass-roots level with the direct involvement of older persons.⁸ Meanwhile, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2010/4), member States favour more emphasis on an open method of coordination. As further noted in the aforementioned report, combining the procedure followed for the first review and appraisal with the open method of coordination could provide a balance between a narrative, bottom-up participatory approach and an approach favouring the collection of quantitative data.

14. The review and appraisal information collected at the local and national levels will be analysed and submitted to the UNECE secretariat in time for it to prepare a regional assessment of progress in implementing UNECE RIS/MIPAA. In order to assist member States in preparing their national reports, the secretariat will issue the guidelines for reporting on the findings of national review and appraisal exercise. The guidelines will be submitted for review to the next meeting of the Working Group in 2011.

15. The national findings will be summarized at the UNECE regional level during 2012. Subject to initiative of member States and availability of resources, a ministerial conference on ageing could be conducted in 2012 with a view to analysing the findings of the review and appraisal exercise in the UNECE region and formulating priorities for furthering the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. Such a conference would allow the UNECE member States to share their experiences and good practices in policy action on ageing.

16. During the concluding phase of the review and appraisal exercise, UNECE would submit the conclusions of the review and appraisal conference and individual national reports to the Commission for Social Development in 2013.

IV. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regional conference on ageing

17. In deciding the topic of the 2012 UNECE regional conference on ageing, the members of the Working Group are reminded that the global theme for the second review

⁸ Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Bottom-up participatory approach. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 2006. Available at: http://www.un.org/ageing/research_papers.html (Accessed on 10 August 2010).

and appraisal has already been formulated by the Commission for Social Development. Meanwhile, the members of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing may wish to adapt the global theme to the regional priorities of their policy action on ageing in follow-up to the 2002 Berlin Ministerial Conference on Ageing, bearing in mind the 10 commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. The following themes, encompassing key words of the global theme and the formulations of the 10 commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA, could be considered for the UNECE regional conference:

- Ageing in dignity: well-being, participation and human rights;
- Harmonizing population ageing and societal development;
- Active ageing: well-being, integration and participation.

A. Purpose and objectives

18. The envisaged ministerial conference on ageing in 2012 can be regarded as the concluding event of the second review and appraisal of RIS/MIPAA at the regional level. Its objective would be to discuss progress made in reaching the objectives of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA and to outline priorities for furthering its implementation in the next five years.

19. A final document will be elaborated for adoption by the conference, outlining future perspectives for addressing the ongoing and emerging challenges of population ageing in the region. The final document could be a ministerial declaration addressing the implementation of RIS/MIPAA and assisting member States in selecting future priorities in its implementation. A declaration containing this “new message” would be drafted before the conference for adoption at its ministerial segment. The adoption of the final document by ministerial-level delegates would be a big step towards ensuring the necessary political support and motivation for further policy action on ageing in the region.

B. Conference design, including organization of its work

20. Following the format of the 2007 Ministerial Conference on Ageing, the 2012 Ministerial Conference will include a plenary segment, a panel segment, and a ministerial segment, the lengths of which will be subject to available resources and the decision of the Working Group on Ageing.

21. Plenary sessions will be devoted to discussing the ageing situation in the UNECE region and evaluating progress in reaching the objectives of the 10 commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA.

22. In a series of parallel panel sessions, delegations of UNECE member States will have the opportunity to analyse their work in various areas of ageing and identify good practices and replicable models for addressing the needs and expectations of older persons in their countries. The members of the Working Group may wish to decide on the themes of the parallel panels. National focal points on ageing should also consult their national ministries on the priorities of their policies on ageing and suggest topics accordingly, for the consideration of the next meeting of the Working Group in 2011.

23. The ministerial segment will include an interactive discussion on concrete topics agreed beforehand. Non-governmental organizations and research communities should also have the opportunity to present their views, which they could negotiate in satellite events held prior to the ministerial segment, subject to availability of resources for holding such satellite events.

24. At the conclusion of the ministerial conference, a press conference could be held to publicize a new message for dealing with demographic change and population ageing.

25. Delegations to the conference will consist of up to four persons from every UNECE member State, including the minister whose area of responsibility is most linked to ageing policies, a Government official, a representative of a non-governmental organization and a scientist working in an area of policy-related research on ageing.

26. Representatives of the UNECE secretariat, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations regional commissions will be invited to report on the progress made in implementing MIPAA in various regions as well as at the global level. The international press will be invited to attend.

27. With regard to the organization of work, the host country, in cooperation with the UNECE secretariat, will be responsible for all the practical arrangements. The Working Group, with the support of the UNECE secretariat, will coordinate the elaboration of themes and all other substantive matters.

C. Preparatory process, including the role of the Working Group

28. The UNECE Working Group on Ageing might wish to transform itself into the preparatory committee for the 2012 ministerial conference and elect its Bureau, as appropriate. The preparatory process of the conference could include a number of preparatory meetings, as decided by the preparatory committee. For example, a first preparatory meeting could be held six-months prior to the ministerial conference and a second the day before the conference.

29. During the first preparatory meeting, the draft agenda of the conference, the rules of procedure and the involvement of various stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and academia, could be discussed. In addition, the participants might also wish to discuss elements of the draft ministerial declaration. A second preparatory meeting should be mainly concerned with drafting the ministerial declaration.

D. Budgetary elements

30. The member State taking the initiative to host the ministerial conference would need to provide adequate conference facilities, including meeting and office space, personnel resources, office supplies and equipment, as well as telephone and fax services. Furthermore, the host country would be responsible for any supplementary expenses arising directly or indirectly in holding the conference, such as the travel costs of United Nations officials, their subsistence allowance and terminal expenses and shipping of any equipment, supplies, or documents. The host country would also be required to provide sufficient security measures, in order to prevent any harm of persons or property of participants, United Nations personnel or personnel hired by the host country.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

31. The members of the Working Group on Ageing may wish to review the modalities of the second review and appraisal of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA in 2012 and decide on the principal approach to conducting the second review and appraisal, such as combining the bottom-up participatory approach with the open method of coordination. Following the decision of the Working Group, the UNECE secretariat will prepare the guidelines for

reporting on the findings of national review and appraisal exercise and submit those to the next session of the Working Group in 2011 for its review.

32. Should a national Government announce its initiative to host a regional conference on ageing in 2012 before or during the third meeting of the Working Group, the Working Group might wish to decide on the issues pertinent to the preparation of the Conference, as follows:

- (a) The theme (topic);
 - (b) The purpose and objectives;
 - (c) The design, including the duration of conference and organization of its work (designation of segments; satellite events, etc.);
 - (d) The form of the concluding document and the procedure for its development;
 - (e) The content and organization of the preparatory process (establishment of a preparatory committee and its bureau and planning for their meetings).
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