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Economic Commission for Europe

Working Group on Ageing

Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Lisbon, 21 and 22 September 2017

Annotated provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference

To be held at the Congress Centre of Lisbon, Portugal, beginning on
Thursday, 21 September 2017 at 9.00 a.m.

I. Introduction

1. In June 2015, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted the resolution E/Res/2015/5 on Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (MIPAA). The resolution requested the regional commissions to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, including organizing the regional review meetings. In response to this resolution, the Economic Commission for Europe decided to organize the fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing on 21-22 September 2017 as a concluding regional event of the third cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS). At the invitation of Portugal, the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing under the title “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” will be held in Lisbon. It will be preceded by a civil society forum and a research forum on 20 September.

II. Provisional Agenda

- A. Plenary session.
1. Official opening of the Conference.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and election of Chair and Vice-Chairs.
 3. Overview of the MIPAA/RIS implementation in the ECE region (summary of country reports) and a brief assessment of the human rights implications for older persons of MIPAA implementation.

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4. Keynote address “Achieving a Sustainable Society for All Ages: Global goals require national and local action”.
- B. Expert panel discussions.
 1. Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons.
 2. Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work.
 3. Ensuring Ageing with Dignity.
- C. Plenary session of the ministerial segment.
 1. Opening of the ministerial segment.
 2. Setting the stage for the ministerial declaration 2017.
- D. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives: “Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons: Intergenerational perspective”.
- E. Presentation of the civil society declaration and of the research community declaration.
- F. Ministerial roundtable discussions.
 1. Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work.
 2. Ensuring Ageing with Dignity.
- G. Adoption of the ministerial declaration.
- H. Closing of the Conference.

III. Annotations

A. Plenary session

1. Official opening of the Conference

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 9.00–9.20 a.m.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/AC.30/2017/1)

High-level officials from Portugal and the ECE secretariat will make opening statements

2. Adoption of the agenda and election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 9.20–9.30 a.m.

The Conference will adopt its agenda

The elected Chairperson will make introductory remarks (up to 3 minutes)

3. Overview of the MIPAA/RIS implementation in the ECE region (summary of country reports) and a brief assessment of the human rights implications for older persons of MIPAA implementation

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 9.30–10.00 a.m.

Documentation: Synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region in 2012-2017 (ECE/AC.30/2017/3).

The Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons will briefly report on the findings related to assessment of human rights implications of MIPAA implementation in the region.

The secretariat will provide an overview of the ageing situation in the ECE region and will summarize the findings of national reports submitted to the secretariat in the framework of the third review of MIPAA.

4. Keynote address “Achieving a Sustainable Society for All Ages: Global goals require national and local action”

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 10.00–10.30 a.m.

A keynote address on “Achieving a Sustainable Society for All Ages: Global goals require national and local action” will be delivered.

Following the presentations, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

B. Expert panel discussions

Each panel will be composed of two government experts/officials. In addition, one or two representatives from the research community and one or two representatives from civil society organizations will take part in the panel discussion. In the second expert panel representatives from international associations representing employers and employees will also participate. A rapporteur will be designated to summarize the discussion for all three panels.

Following the introduction of panellists the panel’s moderator will make a 10-minute intervention, introducing the issues of the respective panel from a broad perspective. This will be followed by statements from five to six panellists, of up to 5-7 minutes each. In the remaining time, delegates will be encouraged to engage in the discussion.

Within the areas defined for the panel, delegates may wish to consider mentioning in their statements the main achievements and obstacles in implementing the MIPAA/RIS during the last five years as well as considerations for priorities for future action in their country.

The rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists and discussants during all three panels in a brief concluding statement at the end of the first day of the Conference (up to 10 minutes).

1. Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

The first expert panel will highlight strategies to sensitize societies to the value of older persons and their potentials and to the need to promote intergenerational solidarity. Older

persons' knowledge and skills stemming from life experience and professional know-how have to be explicitly recognized as a valuable resource to be used in the political, economic and social spheres for the benefit of younger generations and society at large. Particular aspects of intergenerational solidarity as the foundation of cohesive and sustainable societies of all ages will be addressed.

2. Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 2.30–3.55 p.m.

The second expert panel will present successful strategies and progress achieved in the increase of employment opportunities for older persons. It will examine most effective incentives for employers and employees and present models of proven age management in enterprises. Panellists are expected to discuss the lasting consequences of the economic crisis and new working conditions through advanced technologies, the so-called industry 4.0, on the employment of older persons.

3. Ensuring Ageing with Dignity

Timing: Thursday, 21 September, 4.25–5.50 p.m.

The third expert panel will look at effective and innovative concepts, policies and measures to empower people throughout the life cycle to lead an active and satisfactory life – in particular when growing old – and to avoid or diminish the need of assistance and care in old age. This includes appropriate conditions for ensuring social, emotional and economic security. Panellists will explore services for people with poor physical or mental health that can help them accommodate their disabilities by learning or relearning the skills necessary for daily living.

C. Plenary session of the ministerial segment

1. Opening of the ministerial segment

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 9.00–9.30 a.m.

A high-level representative of Portugal and the United Nations will open the ministerial segment of the Conference.

2. Setting the stage for the ministerial declaration 2017

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 9.30–9.40 a.m.

Documentation: draft ministerial declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” (ECE/AC.30/2017/Room Document1).

The Chairperson of the ECE Working Group on Ageing, on behalf of the Declaration Drafting Group, will introduce main elements of the draft declaration (10 min).

Delegations will have the opportunity to provide concrete suggestions, if necessary, for any reformulations in writing before lunchtime.

D. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives: “Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons: Intergenerational perspective”

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 9.40–11.15 a.m.

The panel will be composed of two ministers and three representatives of civil society. A moderator will briefly introduce the theme and summarise the discussion.

Following the introduction of the panellists by the panel’s moderator, each panellist will make a brief initial statement focusing on intergenerational perspective (up to 7-8 minutes) followed by the moderator-led panel discussion. Conference delegates will be encouraged to engage in discussion.

The panel will focus on ageing as a life-course process and highlight strategies to sensitize societies to the value of older persons and their potentials and to the need to promote intergenerational solidarity. The panel will discuss the ways to ensure intergenerational reciprocity in recognizing the contributions that older and younger generations make to the economy and society as well as measures to promote solidarity between generations as one of the pillars of social cohesion. The risk of investment bias or questions regarding the right to education, the social rights of different generations, and the solidarity behind social institutions will be considered, among other aspects.

E. Presentation of the civil society declaration and of the research community declaration

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 11.45 a.m.–12.00 p.m.

The respective chairpersons of the Civil Society Forum and of the Research Forum will present the official statements (7 min. each).

F. Ministerial roundtable discussions

All participating ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to join both roundtables. Statements and interventions in the ministerial roundtables are expected to address the issues in the ministerial declaration. A rapporteur will be designated for each panel.

1. Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 12.00 p.m.–1.30 p.m.

Following the introduction by the roundtable’s Chair, a keynote speaker will make a 15-minute intervention. This will be followed by statements of three ministers on the panel (7-8 minutes each) and an interactive roundtable discussion (3-5 minutes per intervention). The rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists in a brief concluding statement.

2. Ensuring Ageing with Dignity

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 3.00–4.30 p.m.

Following the introduction and opening statement by the roundtable’s Chair, four to five ministers and heads of international organizations participating in the panel will make statements of 7-8 minutes each. This will be followed by an interactive roundtable

discussion (3-5 minutes per intervention). The rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists in a brief concluding statement.

G. Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 4.30–4.50 p.m.

Documentation: Draft ministerial declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” (ECE/AC.30/2017/Room Document1).

H. Closing of the Conference

Timing: Friday, 22 September, 4.50–5.00 p.m.

Documentation: Chairperson’s summary.

The Chairperson of the Conference will summarize the results of the Conference and circulate them in the form of a Chairperson’s summary.
