



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 June 2012

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Working Group on Ageing

Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Vienna, 19 and 20 September 2012

Annotated provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference

To be held at the Hall of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, beginning on
Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fourth session the Economic Commission for Europe decided to organize the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing on 19-20 September 2012 as a concluding regional event of the second cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS). At the invitation of Austria, the 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing will be held in Vienna. The Conference under the motto “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing” will also mark the 30th anniversary of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (VIPAA) which was adopted at the first World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna in 1982.

II. Provisional Agenda

A. Plenary session

1. Official opening of the Conference.
2. Adoption of the agenda and election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
3. Overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region (summary of country reports) and brief report on global progress in MIPAA implementation.

B. Expert panel discussions.

1. Promoting longer working life and maintaining workability.
2. Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons.
3. Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity.

- C. Plenary session of the ministerial segment.
 - 1. Opening of the ministerial segment.
 - 2. Setting the stage for the ministerial declaration 2012.
- D. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives:
Stimulating intergenerational dialogue and solidarity between the generations: a shared responsibility”.
- E. Presentation of the civil society declaration and of the research community declaration.
- F. Ministerial panel discussions:
“Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”.
 - 1. Promoting longer working life and maintaining workability; Promoting participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons.
 - 2. Promoting quality of life in older age: creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity.
- G. Adoption of the ministerial declaration.
- H. Closing of the Conference.

III. Annotations

A. Plenary session

1. Official opening of the Conference

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 9.30–10.00 a.m.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/AC.30/2012/1)

2. A high-level representative of Austria will open the Conference. High-level officials from Austria and the UNECE secretariat will make opening statements.

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

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 10.00–10.10 a.m.

3. The Conference will adopt its agenda.

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

3. Overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region and brief report on global progress in MIPAA implementation

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 10.10–10.45 a.m.

Documentation: Synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region (ECE/AC.30/2012/4)

5. The secretariat will provide an overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region. The presentation will summarize the findings of national reports submitted to the secretariat in the framework of the second review of MIPAA (up to 15 minutes).

6. The UNDESA representative will brief on global progress in MIPAA implementation (up to 5 minutes).
7. Following the presentations, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

B. Expert panel discussions

8. Each panel is composed of four government representatives. In addition, one representative from the research community and one representative from a non-governmental organization take part in the discussion. In the first expert panel representatives from international associations representing employers and employees also participate. A rapporteur is designated to each panel.
9. Following the introduction of panellists by the panel's Chair, a keynote speaker for each expert panel will make a 15 minute intervention, introducing the issues of the respective panel from a broad perspective. This will be followed by statements from six to eight panellists, up to 5-7 minutes each. In the remaining time, delegates will be encouraged to engage in discussion.
10. Within the areas defined for the panel, delegates may wish to consider mentioning in their statements the main achievements and obstacles in implementing the Regional Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing during the last five years as well as the considerations for priorities for future action in their country.
11. The panel's rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists and discussants in a brief concluding statement (up to 5 minutes).

1. Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 11.15 a.m. –1.00 p.m.

12. The *first expert panel* will address the aspects of social, political and cultural implications of increasing life expectancy and the extension of working lives (including a consideration of the gender dimension). It will reflect on how the perception of being 'old' in general and in the context of work changes in an ageing society and what does it mean in practice to acknowledge the contributions of the older work force. Answers will be sought on what is needed to improve health and safety at work and to make working longer fully possible and attractive, and how changes in pension systems could motivate all generations to work longer.

2. Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 2.30–4.00 p.m.

13. The *second expert panel* will discuss the ways to effectively promote essential components of the quality of life such as continuous labour market participation; active contribution to domestic tasks (including housework and caring for others); active participation of older persons in political, social and community life and active leisure. The promotion of later-life learning as a facilitator of active ageing will be considered, as well as that of volunteering for realizing the potential of older women and men. The panellist are expected to debate on how to guarantee non-discriminatory access to social and health services for older persons, and how to address in general the needs of older consumers and better protect their consumer rights. The role of education in raising awareness of ageing and its effect on perceptions and attitudes of the public and of media towards ageing and older people will be looked at.

3. Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 4.30–6.00 p.m.

14. The third expert panel is expected to consider what policy strategies could support active ageing as the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. The panellists will look into what health measures are useful throughout the life-course to prevent disability and to promote well-being in older age, and how older persons can be empowered to live independently even if they are facing disability. The discussion will consider measures to better protect older people from abuse and neglect and to ensure their dignity and human rights. Setting quality standards for social care and health services, improving working conditions, the image and the training of professional care workers, reconciling work, family and care duties of informal caregivers are among the aspects to be addressed.

C. Plenary session of the ministerial segment

1. Opening of the ministerial segment

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.00–9.30 a.m.

15. A high-level representative of Austria and the Executive Secretary of the UNECE will open the ministerial segment of the Conference.

2. Setting the stage for the ministerial declaration 2012

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.30–9.40 a.m.

Documentation: draft ministerial declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing” (ECE/AC.30/2012/3).

16. The Chairperson of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and of the Declaration Drafting Group will introduce main elements of the draft declaration (20 min).

17. If necessary, delegations will have an opportunity to provide concrete suggestions for any reformulations in writing before lunchtime.

D. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives: “Stimulating intergenerational dialogue and solidarity between the generations: a shared responsibility”

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.40–11.15 a.m.

18. The panel is composed of three ministers and three representatives of civil society. A rapporteur is designated for the panel.

19. Following the introduction of panellists by the panel’s Chair, two keynote speakers will make 10 minute interventions each, introducing the issues of the panel from a perspective of older and younger generations. This will be followed by interventions from six panellists, up to 6-7 minutes each. In the remaining time, delegates will be encouraged to engage in discussion.

20. The panel with a focus on ageing as a life-course process will discuss the ways to ensure intergenerational reciprocity and measures to promote solidarity between generations as one of the pillars of social cohesion. The panellists are expected to review the issues on social rights and obligations of younger and older people and how existing

and potential conflicts can be resolved. The risk of pension systems crowding out investments in youth 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: Thursday, 20 September, 11.45–12.00 a.m.

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

F. Ministerial panel discussions:

Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing

22. All participating ministers and heads of international organizations are invited to join both panels. Statements and interventions in the ministerial panels are expected to address the issues in the ministerial declaration. A rapporteur is designated for each panel.

1. Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability; Promoting participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 12.00 a.m.–1.30 p.m.

23. Following the introduction by the panel's Chair, a keynote speaker will make a 15 minutes intervention. This will be followed by statement of four ministers on the panel, 7-8 minutes each, and an interactive panel discussion. The rapporteur will summarise the main points raised by the panellists in a brief concluding statement.

2. Promoting quality of life in older age: creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 3.00–4.30 p.m.

24. Following the introduction by the panel's Chair, four to five ministers and heads of international organisations participating in the panel will make statements of 7-8 minutes each. This will be followed by an interactive panel discussion. The rapporteur will summarise the main points raised by the panellists in a brief concluding statement.

G. Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 4.30–4.50 p.m.

Documentation: Draft ministerial declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing” (ECE/AC.30/2012/3).

H. Closing of the Conference

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 4.50–5.00 p.m.

Documentation: Chairperson's summary.

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