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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Working Group on Ageing

#### Seventh meeting

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

#### Main elements of the WGA work programme for 2015

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### Note by the secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. The present note sets out proposals for main elements of the work programme of the Working Group for 2015. The suggested activities are based on the outputs and deliverables outlined in under Main elements of the Programme of Work for 2014-2017, approved by the Working Group on Ageing at its 6th meeting (25-26 November 2013) and outlined in Annex II of the Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its Sixth Meeting (ECE/WG.1/2013/2). They are also in line with the Draft programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing for 2014-2015 under the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme (ECE/WG.1/2013/6).

2. The activities are planned in the four areas: (a) discussion groups of the WGA; (b) preparation of policy briefs with good practice examples; (c) capacity development; and (d) monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening evidence-base for policymaking.

3. The Member States are reminded that implementation of activities suggested in the Programme of Work will be to a certain extent contingent upon availability of extra-budgetary resources y.

## **II. Proposals for the programme of work for 2015**

### **A. Discussion groups of the WGA**

4. To accompany, support and monitor the process of the implementation of the commitments made by UNECE Member States in the Ministerial Declaration of the Vienna Conference on Ageing 'Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing', in September 2012, the Working Group set up four discussion groups, each one focussing on one of the four main goals of the Ministerial Declaration: (a) Encourage longer working life and maintain ability to work; (b) Promote participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons; (c) Promote and safeguard dignity, health and independence in older age; (d) Maintain and enhance intergenerational solidarity.

5. The discussion groups are largely expected to convene during the meetings of the Working Group on Ageing, and to provide some input ahead of the meeting of the Bureau of the WGA. Their contribution is expected in the following areas:

(a) suggesting strategic and relevant topics for Policy Briefs up to 2017, discussing their outlines and contributing good practice examples to be included in the publications

(b) contributing to discussions regarding the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS, including guidelines for national reporting, the preparation of regional analysis and the organization of the Ministerial Conference in 2017

(c) participating in capacity development activities on specific topics, contributing expertise and feedback.

### **B. Policy briefs with good practice examples**

6. One policy brief (issue No.16) will be prepared by the UNECE secretariat in 2015 on the previously agreed theme of ensuring dignity and non-discrimination of persons with dementia. Thanks to the support by Germany, an expert can be hired as a consultant to provide research and analysis for the brief. In accordance with the already established pattern, the future brief will include the information about available policy options along with good practice examples, which will be prepared in cooperation with the countries implementing the corresponding policies.

7. Focal points on Ageing of UNECE Member States are invited to translate the policy briefs into national languages to spread ideas and to make them accessible to a wider circle of professionals, policymakers and volunteers.

8. Following on the Discussion groups' suggestions for new topics of future briefs, preliminary research for the next Policy Brief (issue no.16) can start in the second half of 2015.

### **C. Capacity development**

9. The Working Group is making efforts to develop capacity through the project on Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing. Road Maps provide guidance to Member States on how to formulate ageing-related policies in response to MIPAA/RIS. Road Maps are developed at the request of the Member State and in accordance with the general terms of reference for the project approved by the Working Group on Ageing at its sixth meeting in November 2013.

10. Following the presentation of the final draft of the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Georgia at the 7th meeting of the WGA, the Secretariat is ready to continue to accompany Georgia in preparing a related Action Plan, mapping out activities in respond to the recommendations contained in the Road Map. Based on the available material the Secretariat will prepare the Road Map for publishing, the report is expected to become available in print during 2015. It will also be available in Georgian, with support of UNFPA.

11. The Secretariat is ready to receive written expressions of interest from future candidates for a Road Map. Work may start during 2015, if funding is made available.

12. Activities related to the evaluation and monitoring of the Road Map implementation in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova, where the projects were completed in 2010 and 2012 respectively, may be undertaken if the programme funding permits.

13. Member States are invited to suggest additional capacity development activities, such as national and subregional workshops or seminars, during the year. The Secretariat is ready to support such activities, by contributing speakers and disseminating announcements to suitable participants. In addition, the Secretariat jointly with the European Commission and respective national focal points will organise at least one national workshop on the potential use of the Active Ageing Index for monitoring policy on ageing outcomes.

#### **D. Monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening evidence-base for policymaking**

14. The monitoring of MIPAA/RIS implementation and strengthening evidence base for policymaking is a core element of the WGA programme of work for 2014-2017. It aims (1) at providing evidence for on-going review of policy responses towards raising the quality of life of older people and (2) at engaging key stakeholders in formulation and implementation of policies and programmes that can improve the experiences of ageing and maintain the intertwined financial and social sustainability of public welfare systems in UNECE region.

15. The WGA supported by the UNECE secretariat and in collaboration with the European Commission will continue to explore the feasibility of using the Active Ageing Index (AAI) to monitor the implementation of MIPAA/RIS. In 2015, the second phase of the AAI project will continue to be rolled out focusing on further research and raising awareness about the index. The country coverage will be further broadened; the trends in AAI results will be examined through the years 2008, 2010 and 2012. Pilot studies in Serbia and Turkey that started in 2014 will be completed in 2015. Particular attention of the project will be focused on the subnational application of the index. An International Seminar for researchers, policymakers and civil society representatives will be held in April 2015 in Brussels to study further the potential of AAI in providing an evidence base for active ageing policymaking.

16. The Generations and Gender Programme remains an essential component of data collection and research for the UNECE work on population issues. The secretariat will continue coordinating the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) as an important source of evidence for policymaking and monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration. Further participating countries will be sought through measures of advocacy and the scientific community will be encouraged to use the data for their research. The secretariat will continue to process data applications and update the bibliography of publications using GGP data.

## **E. Preparations for the third cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation and follow-up on related international agendas in population and development field**

17. The decision of the Commission for Social Development about the procedure for the third review and appraisal exercise is to be expected at its 53rd session in February 2015. In the process, synergies with the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the UN post-2015 development Agenda will be sought, especially in the context of responding to population dynamics within a human rights framework.

18. At the seventh meeting of WGA in 2014, the timeline for preparation and submission of the country reports and their synthesis will be agreed and an extended outline of the guidelines for the country reports will be agreed. Based on the outcomes of the discussion at the seventh WGA meeting, the guidelines will be finalised and disseminated by the Bureau after its meeting in May 2015.

19. With the decision of the Commission for Social Development about the third review and appraisal exercise at its 53rd session in 2015, the preparatory work for the next Ministerial Conference on Ageing will start. The representatives of Turkey which will host the 2017 Ministerial Conference on Ageing will prepare a concept note on the theme and programme of the Ministerial Conference for the discussion at the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in 2015.

20. At its eighth meeting, the Working Group will start to function as the Preparatory Committee for the conference and will decide about the motto of the conference and the possible political outcome document to conclude the third cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS. The Bureau will guide the preparations for the conference between the annual sessions of the Working Group.

## **III. Financing the Programme of Work**

21. The initial terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing (ECE/EX/2008/L.11) and their later amendments stipulated that the annual meetings of the Working Group are to be serviced by the UNECE Secretariat without the need for additional resources. At the same time, to support activities related to the capacity development for ageing-related policymaking; better informed ageing-related policies in the region; more effective implementation of MIPAA/RIS the Members States agreed to establish an Ageing Trust Fund for voluntary contributions.

22. The Population Unit in the Statistics Division of the UNECE Secretariat is responsible for the work related to ageing, including servicing the meetings of the Working Group and its Bureau. The regular budget provides only for two professional posts in the unit; this severely limits the range of activities in the proposed Programme of Work.

23. In 2015, programmed activities on implementing the AAI project will be financed by the donation from the European Commission. Germany has already provided funds to hire an expert, helping to prepare the next Policy Brief. Norway contributed USD 3,000 to the Ageing trust fund in early 2014 for the general WGA programme support. Poland has kindly invited the WGA Bureau to hold its next meeting in Gdansk in spring 2015.

24. Delivering additional activities and outputs envisaged for 2015, especially under item C, capacity development, will require extra-budgetary resources. Additional funds may have to be raised to finance travel of experts and meeting participants from low-income countries. In response to the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration (i.e. paragraph 18), members of the Working Group are invited to pledge financial resources and offer in-kind contributions in support of the Programme of Work.