



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Working Group on Ageing

#### Ninth meeting

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Third cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS

### **Progress report on conducting the third review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS in the ECE region**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2014/7 ‘Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002’ (MIPAA) in view of the third review and appraisal cycle, stresses the importance of international cooperation and calls for countries to share information, experiences and good practices, to draw conclusions and to set priorities for the future in order to enhance MIPAA implementation.

2. On 8 June 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution 2015/5 ‘Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002’ based on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2015/26). The resolution invites United Nations Member States to carry out the review and appraisal exercise and requests the Regional Commissions to assist and facilitate the review process, including holding regional conferences in 2017.

3. This document is prepared for the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA). It refers to the process of conducting the third review and appraisal exercise of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the ECE region, including the agreed timetable for the review and appraisal, the development and format of national reports and the synthesis report and preparations for the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in 2017.



## **II. Third review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation**

### **A. Support for preparation of national reports**

4. The third cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS in the ECE region was launched in May 2015 with the issuing of guidelines for national reports to be prepared in the course of 2016. The guidelines were drafted by the WGA Bureau together with the Secretariat and finalized in cooperation with the Working Group on Ageing. The WGA members worked on the guidelines in four discussion groups (one for each goal of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration) and provided input to the guidelines for their respective themes.

5. In the context of the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Conference active ageing was set up as the central concept and operational approach of national and regional policies on ageing. To gauge the advancement of it, the guidelines suggest structuring the national reports around the four main goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration. In addition, countries are encouraged to include information on emerging issues in the concluding part of the report. Member States are also asked to identify three main areas where major improvements were made and three areas where challenges remain.

6. ECE member States are also asked to provide an annex to the national report with statistical data using a list of suggested indicators outlined in the guidelines. The suggested list includes the 22 active ageing indicators which were initially selected by the Expert Group on Active Ageing Index (AAI) in order to reflect the outcomes of the ageing policies and indicate the untapped potential of older people. These indicators are grouped under the four domains that broadly correspond with the goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration. Data on these indicators are available for all EU countries and four other ECE countries (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland) which conduct/take part in a number of internationally comparable social surveys and which were included in the AAI project. The Secretariat provided pre-filled statistical annexes based on the AAI results to the above mentioned countries, while countries for which no AAI data are available have to prepare the statistical annexes based on their national data.

7. Two capacity-building workshops were held to address data gaps for active ageing indicators. The first workshop was held on 18 November 2015, back-to-back with the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in Geneva. A second regional capacity-development workshop was held on 23 and 24 June 2016 in Minsk and hosted by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. The workshops were aimed at national focal points on ageing and representatives of the national statistical offices of Eastern European, Caucasus, Central Asian and Western Balkans countries. The workshops provided guidance to countries on how to identify suitable data for the indicators in the statistical annex and expert consultations on specific indicators as per requests from the participant countries.

8. National reports should be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of October 2016. To ensure a wider involvement of and consultations with various stakeholders and older people themselves in the report preparation a number of ECE countries plan to hold national conferences on ageing before the end of 2016 (Armenia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, etc.). Several countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia that are part of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) programme also receive some financial and expert support for preparing national reports and involving the civil society in this process. In addition, thanks to the inter-agency cooperation agreement with ECE, the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia provided funding for one of the above mentioned capacity-building workshops. The funding for the first workshop was provided by Sweden.

## **B. Synthesis Report on MIPAA/RIS implementation in the ECE region**

9. The Secretariat will prepare a synthesis report based on the accounts received from ECE member States, outlining major trends in the region, identifying key priority action areas and suggesting policy responses. Provided that the member States submit their national reports by the agreed deadline of 31 October 2016, the synthesis report will be prepared in April/May 2017. The report will be structured along the four goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration. A first draft of the report will be made available for comments from the Working Group on Ageing ahead of the Ministerial Conference in September 2017. The synthesis report will be launched at the Ministerial Conference and its findings will feed into the Ministerial Declaration which is expected to outline priorities for the following cycle of MIPAA/RIS implementation.

## **C. Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in 2017**

10. The fourth ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2017 under the theme “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the Potential of Living Longer”. It will be hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal.

11. After the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing, two subgroups were formed within its Bureau to focus on different parts of the preparations for the Ministerial Conference. One group was working on a draft concept note on the structure of the Ministerial Conference including the schedule, agenda and possible panellists. At its meeting in May 2016, the Bureau discussed the draft concept and agreed for the Expert session of the Ministerial Conference to have mixed panels of five panellists including experts, policymakers and NGO representatives. The panels/round table discussions at the High-level session will consist primarily of ministers and heads of delegations. The concept note was shared with the Working Group and will be discussed at the ninth Working Group on Ageing meeting in November 2016.

12. The second group of the Bureau prepared an initial draft text for the Ministerial Declaration. This draft was also discussed at the Bureau meeting in May 2016 and will be subject to further discussion in groups at the ninth WGA meeting. Official consultations with the member States on the declaration text will start in the first half of 2017.

13. At the eighth Bureau meeting in May 2016 it was agreed that organizing committees should be formed for the NGO and research forums with several institutes or organizations involved. The representative of the NGOs and the Director of European Centre re for Social Welfare Policy and Research declared their readiness to chair the respective organizing committees and to make a proposal for participating institutes and organizations.

## **III. Conclusions**

14. The third review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA/RIS is being carried out in line with the modalities adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the timeline agreed by the Working Group on Ageing. The review and appraisal will conclude with a Ministerial Conference in Lisbon in 2017 for which preparations are under way.

## Annex

### Overview of MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal process in the ECE region

