



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Working Group on Ageing

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2018

Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its eleventh meeting

I. Introduction

A. Attendance

1. The eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) was held on 19 and 20 November 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It was chaired by Mr. Edmundo Martinho, Portugal. The WGA Vice-Chair, Ms. Aina Strand from Norway, chaired the second day of the meeting. The meeting was attended by a total of 77 participants.¹

2. Representatives of 37 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) participated: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine. The Holy See attended as an observer State.

3. Representatives of the European Commission (EC), the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (ECV), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting: AGE Platform Europe, Ardager (Kazakhstan), Centre for Socio-Economic Development, HelpAge International, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation on Ageing (IFA), International Longevity Centre (ILC) Global Alliance, ILC Canada, International Network

¹ The list of participants is available on the meeting page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47717>



for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), Red Cross of Serbia, Ukrainian Charity “Turbotata pro Litnih v Ukraini” (Age-Concern-Ukraine).

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. The eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Ageing was opened by the Director of the ECE Statistical Division.

5. The Working Group adopted the meeting’s agenda as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/1 without changes.

II. Report of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing and briefing on the outcomes of ageing-related events during 2018

A. The Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

6. The representative of Slovenia reported on the tenth Bureau meeting that took place in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 14 and 15 May 2018. He referred to the meeting report (ECE/WG.1/2018/3) and summarized the discussions and decisions taken at the Bureau meeting. Opening interventions made by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Slovenia and several civil society representatives were highlighted.

B. Outcome of consultations on transforming the Working Group on Ageing to a standing intergovernmental body (follow-up to paragraph 38 of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration)

7. The Chair briefed the WGA on the meeting of the Consultation Group with representatives of ECE member States that was held in Geneva on 22 June 2018 to explore the possibility of transforming the Working Group on Ageing to a standing intergovernmental body in response to paragraph 38 of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. He noted that member States showed appreciation for the growing importance of population ageing as a critical issue for countries in the region and for the work of the WGA. The Chair pointed out that although there was general agreement that the group should be supported and strengthened in its work, there was no consensus regarding its transformation to a sectoral committee. As a result, the member States’ representatives in the Executive Committee of the ECE (EXCOM) requested the secretariat to explore alternative institutional arrangements that would strengthen the group.

8. The Director of the ECE Statistical Division reported on the second informal consultation with the EXCOM members on 5 November 2018 and introduced a draft proposal for revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group prepared by the secretariat in response to comments received during the informal consultations. She noted that the document (ECE/WG.1/2018/RD1) containing the proposal was shared with the WGA prior to the meeting. Key elements of the proposal are a change of name to Standing Working Group on Ageing; a continuous mandate; and a refined scope of activities in response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant recent global agendas. She invited the Working Group to comment on the draft proposal.

9. In the subsequent discussion, the representatives from Austria and Ireland expressed their support for moving forward with new Terms of Reference and proposed the following amendments: introducing a reference to a longer-term appointment of the national focal

points to be represented at the Standing Working Group on Ageing and referencing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a way of strengthening the mandate rather than increasing the scope of activities. The representative of the European Commission supported reference to a strengthening of mandate in response to the recent long-term global agendas and recommended to make reference to the prior work done by the WGA. The Executive Director of the ECV asked whether it would be possible to define the role of national focal points on ageing in future.

10. At the suggestion of the Chair, the Working Group requested the secretariat and the Bureau to address to the extent possible the comments made in a final draft of the new Terms of Reference and to circulate these electronically to the WGA for final comments and endorsement. Once endorsed by the WGA the Terms of Reference would be submitted to the EXCOM for review and decision (tentatively in February 2019).

C. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development and the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development

11. The Vice-Chair of the Working Group briefed the meeting participants about the High-level panel discussion on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) implementation at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) on 30 January 2018. The ECE region was represented by the Chair of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Conference, H.E. Mr. José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal. The Vice-Chair commented on the reported developments in other regions and noted that many medium-lower and low-income countries have made important strides in addressing ageing during the last five years. She also briefed the group on a successful WGA side event “MIPAA meets SDG1” at the CSocD session with representation of Austria, France, Norway and the former NGO representative at the WGA Bureau. Before concluding, the Vice-Chair remarked that CSocD stressed the need to align the MIPAA implementation with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in its draft resolution suggested to strengthen the work on ageing by the regional commissions.

12. The secretariat provided a brief overview of the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) that took place in April 2018 under the theme “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration”. The secretariat noted that the CPD could not reach consensus and adopt a resolution on the main theme of the session. The next CPD session will focus on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The WGA was reminded that since the adoption of CPD decisions on new methods of work in 2016 and 2017, a new four-year cycle for the review and assessment of the ICPD Programme of Action, aligned with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, will be introduced in 2019.

III. New and ongoing international initiatives in the area of ageing and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

13. A representative of ISSA presented key findings of a forthcoming International Actuarial Association’s report on inequality. The report addresses the most recent trends of

rising inequality within and across countries and efforts to reflect inequality in actuarial assumptions as well as identifying some actuarial solutions in the face of these trends.

14. The WHO representative updated the group on the preparations for a Decade of Healthy Ageing to be launched in October 2020. It foresees a strong multi-stakeholder collaboration focusing on policies that are inclusive and supportive of older people. A comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation that provides the basis for an accountability framework to measure progress towards political commitments is planned. The WHO representative also informed the group about the initiative to create a Platform on Population Ageing and reported on survey results from member States on what such a platform should provide. Online training, policy briefs on specific topics, exchange with peers and guiding tools for costing interventions on healthy ageing were among the most frequently referred to by the ECE countries that responded to the survey.

15. The secretariat reported on the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that took place in March 2018 under the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” (in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17). It included round tables on water, energy, cities, sustainable consumption and production, and ecosystems / forests. The situation of older persons was mentioned in a case study provided by the Czech Republic on rental housing finance for older persons during a panel discussion on SDG11 “Financing the transition to sustainable cities and communities: challenges and opportunities”. The next Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will take place on 21-22 March 2019 and focus on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 16. At the global level, the next High-level Political Forum will be held in July 2019 under the title “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” with member States’ voluntary national reviews and regional fora outcomes feeding into it. Working Group members were encouraged to consider their potential involvement in the Regional Forum round tables or focus discussions.

16. The secretariat also updated the WGA on the work of the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Older Populations in Institutions. So far, the task force has collected information on the current practices and related challenges by conducting a survey among national statistical offices (36 countries responded) and identified five work packages: reviewing definitions, assessing bias, methods for using administrative data, instrument design and survey methods, and ethical issues. The task force will be working throughout 2019 preparing guidelines for statistical offices on whether, when and how to include such populations in the production of statistics on ageing-related topics.

IV. Country experiences: aligning policy measures and strategies on ageing with the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration

17. The Czech Republic presented the new national “Strategy for Society Ageing” which takes into account lessons learned from the previous national action plan for positive ageing (2013-2017). The four objectives of the strategy were outlined: ensuring capacities of public administration and municipalities to deal with population ageing; ensuring ageing in dignity for all members of the society, regarding their financial independence, human rights and tackling discrimination based on age; ensuring financial sustainability of ageing policies; and ensuring that ageing is understood as an opportunity for further development of the society.

18. The representative of the Republic of Moldova briefed the Working Group on progress made in the country and its policy alignment with the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. She stressed the importance of cooperation with the ECE, WHO, UNFPA and UNDESA in this field. Among major developments the reform of the pension system with a

more transparent pension calculation formula, more accessible social and health services with a special attention to rural older population, and palliative care expansion were mentioned. On the policy side, a new plan of action on ageing for 2018-2021 was approved with national budget allocations. The Government also launched a grant programme for NGOs to promote active ageing at the local level.

19. The national focal point of Italy reported on national policy measures in the framework of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. After recalling the main findings of the national report on MIPAA/RIS implementation (2012-2017), he briefly highlighted policy measures in keeping with previous programmes such as adult education and training, labour market and long-term care. Then he focused on newly envisaged measures related to strengthening pension system equity and long-term care, basic income, incentives to combat precarious work and safeguarding occupational levels under the recently passed Dignity decree and others. He also briefed the group about the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

V. The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2018-2022)

A. Implementation of the main elements of the Working Group on Ageing work programme in 2018 and planned outputs in 2019

20. The Working Group reviewed the implementation of its work programme during the year 2018 as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/4.

1. Policy Briefs

21. The secretariat informed the Working Group about the publication of Policy Brief No. 20 “Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age”.² The Working Group was also reminded that according to the Bureau decision, Policy Brief No. 22 will focus on informal carers and Policy Brief No. 23 will be on ageing in urban environments, both to be prepared and published, if possible, in 2019.

22. A first draft of Policy Brief No. 21 on “Ageism as a barrier to a longer working life” prepared by the secretariat together with a consultant was presented to the Working Group. The secretariat noted that the topic for this brief was selected in reference to Goal 2 of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. The work on the brief is ongoing, and members of the WGA were asked to provide some additional good practice examples in core areas addressed in the brief. During the discussion that followed, several participants suggested to consider changing the title of the brief to ageism in the work place or labour market in general.

2. Capacity-building

23. The secretariat briefly reported on a national seminar which took place in Warsaw, Poland on 18 June 2018 and was co-organized with the Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy under the Active Ageing Index (AAI) project. The seminar was attended by 65 experts and representatives from the host ministry and ministries of health, investment and development, as well as Social Insurance Institution, Parliamentary Committee on Senior Policy, Central Statistical Office and other central and regional

² <http://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>

government agencies as well as academia and NGO representatives. Lively and well-informed discussions focused on the potential policy responses to population ageing in Poland in light of the AAI data analysis at subnational level as well as for the specific population subgroups presented by Ms. Jolanta Perek-Białas, from Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Warsaw School of Economics. The AAI was accepted as an important and informative tool for experts and policymakers that is rather easy to understand and use. The Polish Government is going to support its further calculations at national and subnational levels.

24. The Austrian representative reported on the international expert conference on human rights of older persons that took place on 12-13 November 2018 in Vienna. It was organized by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection of Austria. The two panel discussions were dedicated to technology and its implications for human rights of older persons, in particular focusing on robotics and automation, and on education and digitalization.

3. Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing implementation and building evidence base for policymaking

(a) Active Ageing Index

25. The secretariat updated the group on activities implemented in 2018 under the third phase of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) project. The guidelines for calculating the AAI in non-EU countries and at subnational level were developed. An additional research study analysing AAI results for population subgroups was carried out by an institutional consultant in Italy. Findings from this study were presented to the group showcasing the AAI relevance for more targeted policy measures. The AAI project team in collaboration with the University of the Basque Country and the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, and with the support of the Government of Biscay (Spain), organized the Second International Seminar on the AAI in September 2018 in Bilbao, Spain. It attracted around 145 participants from 37 countries, international and regional organizations and CSOs. Thirty-seven papers and posters were presented during the seminar. The results of the studies, information about meetings and publications are available from the AAI wiki-space.³

26. The secretariat noted that based on the mutual agreement between the ECE and the EC Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, the AAI project was extended through August 2019 and a number of important events and studies are to be carried out over the next nine months. Among them: an analytical report on AAI trends 2008-2016, a pilot study at subnational level in Romania, some national seminars and a stakeholder meeting in June 2019 as well as the launch of a new web-based tool for visualization of the AAI results.

27. The EC representative stressed the importance of work done under the project and the relevance of the AAI as a monitoring tool at regional level. He also noted that the international seminar papers had a strong component of addressing inequalities, particularly by gender, indicating the need for policymakers' attention. The project proved its validity and should have a follow-up.

(b) Generations and Gender Programme

28. The secretariat updated the group on the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP). A Council of Partners meeting was held on 6 June 2018 back to back with the 2018 European Population Conference in Brussels (6-9 June). The GGP teams from 22 countries

³ <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/AAI/Active+Ageing+Index+Home>

were present. Belarus completed the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) in 2017 and signed data sharing agreement with the ECE in March 2018. Kazakhstan and Latvia are currently fielding the survey and further fundraising for the GGS is underway in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Romania. The UNFPA and other agencies are supporting activities at country level in the eastern part of the region. The usage of GGP data for evidence-based policymaking is widening. The most recent examples refer to family support policy adjustments in a number of ECE countries. The GGP data are also used for analysing intergenerational transfers, support and involvement in care provision to grandchildren and older adults.

29. The discussions under agenda item 5(a) concluded with the approval of the report on implementation of the main elements of the work programme in 2018 (ECE/WG.1/2018/4). The Chair on behalf of the WGA commended the work done by the secretariat and the Working Group members who were directly involved in the work programme activities in 2018.

B. The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

30. The secretariat briefly introduced the main elements of the programme of work for 2018-2022 as contained in the document ECE/WG1/2018/RD2. The attention was drawn to the newly included items (policy seminars and guidelines for mainstreaming ageing) and the need to start preparations for the fourth review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA/RIS implementation in 2019. The group was reminded that initial discussion on main items of the work programme took place at the tenth WGA meeting when policy seminars on specific topics were tentatively included subject to approval based on the evaluation of the pilot seminar on 21 November 2018. The draft work programme was also discussed in detail at the Bureau meeting in Ljubljana where proposals on prioritization of activities and development of guidelines were put forward.

31. Following the secretariat's introduction, meeting participants were invited to split into three groups to discuss the proposed outline of the Policy Brief No. 22 on informal carers and agree on preliminary topics for three future policy briefs. After the group discussions, designated rapporteurs for each group provided a summary of the deliberations to the plenary.

1. First break-out session: Topics for future policy briefs and discussion of the outline for the Policy Brief No. 22 on informal carers

32. Based on the group discussion summaries, the preferences for the future policy brief topics (working titles) ranked as follows: (1) Older persons in emergency situations; (2) Age-friendly digitalization and eGovernment; (3) Mainstreaming ageing; (4) Age-friendly technology; (5) Gender equality. Some additional topics were suggested, such as older persons at the poverty line and health literacy of older persons. It was suggested that a Policy Brief on mainstreaming ageing should be issued in preparation of the next ministerial conference once the guidelines for mainstreaming ageing are published.

33. Regarding the Policy Brief on informal carers, which will be prepared by the ECV team in cooperation with the secretariat, the proposed draft outline was generally accepted. It was agreed to focus on the care providers who are family members, neighbours, friends, and community members. A box may be included to refer to the important role of migrant workers in care provision. The Policy Brief will aim at taking into account the diversity of approaches to informal care in countries' legislation and will highlight the consequences (negative and positive) of provision of care for caregivers. A number of good practices were identified already during the group discussions. Working Group members agreed to

send more detailed information to inform the preparation of the brief (deadline of first draft being March 2019).

2. Second break-out session: Initial discussion on development of the guidelines for mainstreaming ageing

34. In a second round of break-out sessions, following Portugal's introduction on a proposal to develop the guidelines for mainstreaming ageing as a new element of the work programme in 2018-2022, the three discussion groups aimed to identify the key challenges for mainstreaming ageing and agree on main themes to be included in such guidelines. They were also asked to discuss some practical tools/mechanisms that could facilitate mainstreaming ageing and agree on a possible format of the guidelines. After the group discussions, designated rapporteurs of each group provided a summary of the deliberations to the plenary.

35. The Chair, reflecting on the groups' contribution and the interventions during the follow-up plenary discussion, noted a general agreement on several points: (a) the key challenge is a lack of understanding why ageing is relevant among most of the government agencies as well as among the public in general; (b) target audience for the guidelines: government at all levels, CSOs and older persons; (c) guidelines should cover usual themes (health, social care, transport, etc.) but also include those where the linkage with ageing is not obvious; (d) guidelines should insist on in-built policy impact assessment regarding ageing as it is done regarding gender in many countries. The guidelines should be issued as a publication and be complemented with a set of training materials and assessment tools.

36. It was agreed that Portugal will lead the preparation of the guidelines. A task force of some 10-15 WGA members and observers will be created to work on the guidelines (mainly through electronic means). Working Group members were invited to express their interest and availability to join the task force by confirming it to the secretariat before 21 January 2019. The national focal points of Belarus and Germany volunteered and were joined by the NGOs from Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The representatives of the Czech Republic, Italy and Spain expressed their interest and will confirm their availability after consultation with their ministries.

3. Adoption of the proposed main elements of work programme for 2018-2022 as outlined in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/RD2

37. The Chair summarized the discussions on the main elements of the programme of work highlighting the general support for inclusion of new items such as annual policy seminars and guidelines for mainstreaming ageing. She noted the WGA agreement to establish a task force for the development of guidelines over the period 2019-2020 and to confirm the inclusion of policy seminars and in-depths discussions depending on the outcome of the pilot seminar taking place right after the WGA meeting.⁴ The Working Group approved the main elements of the work programme for 2018-2022 as presented in Annex II of this report.

⁴ The participants' responses to the questionnaire at the end of the Policy seminar on 21 November 2018 fully supported inclusion of this item in the work programme.

VI. Report and discussion on the outcome of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Conference on **Ageing and Sustainable Development** (1-2 October 2018, Geneva)

A. Key messages of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Report with regards to ageing

38. The secretariat informed the Working Group about the completion of the regional review on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD based on the recommendations of the Chair's summary of the 2013 High-level Regional Conference on ICPD beyond 2014. The ICPD+25 review was carried out jointly with the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in Istanbul. The review outputs include the UNECE Monitoring framework for the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 developed with the support of a multi-stakeholder expert group and the Regional Report on ICPD+25 "Fulfilling the potential of present and future generations". The review was concluded with the Regional Conference "Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development" on 1-2 October in Geneva.⁵

39. Selected findings from the Regional Report were presented to the Working Group focusing on aspects of population ageing and intergenerational relations. Attention was drawn to a rather extensive use of the material and active ageing indicators published in the 2017 Synthesis report on MIPAA/RIS implementation in preparation of both the Regional Report on ICPD+25 and the Monitoring Framework.

B. Main conclusions of the conference with regards to ageing

40. The conclusions of deliberations and member State statements at the ICPD+25 Regional Conference "Enabling Choices: Population dynamics and sustainable development" in relation to population ageing were briefly summarized by the secretariat referring (among others) to the need to combat age-based stereotypes and discrimination, recognize and support the productivity of older generations and promote healthy, active and independent living in old age; the need for changing gender norms and stereotypes and more equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work between men and women as well as the need to address the persistent gender pay gap and increasing risk of women's old-age poverty.

41. The representative of Georgia who participated in the ICPD+25 Regional Conference and was also a member of the multi-stakeholder expert group on the Monitoring framework development shared her appreciation of the substantive debates at the conference and excellent preparatory work by the secretariat.

VII. Reform of the United Nations Budget planning and budgeting process

42. With reference to the information note presented in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/INF1, WGA members were informed about recent developments regarding the preparation of the United Nations plan and budget, and the implications for the work of the Working Group.

⁵ For more details see the conference webpage at <http://www.unece.org/pau/icpd25.html>

VIII. Financing of the work programme

43. The secretariat informed the Working Group about the availability and use of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources in 2018 and the current financing of the programme.

44. The secretariat reported financial contribution to the Ageing fund by Germany in 2018 and acknowledged in-kind contributions received from Austria in the form of contributions towards the WGA side event at the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development in New York, from Slovenia in the form of hosting the Bureau meeting in May 2018, from Poland (host of the national seminar on the AAI in June 2018) and the University of the Basque Country (Spain), host of the second International Seminar in September 2018. Germany, Portugal and Spain also provided in-kind contributions in the form of translating policy briefs in 2018.

45. Pledges were made by Portugal to host the next Bureau meeting (May 2019) and by Germany to provide additional € 50,000 to the Ageing fund. The ECV pledged an in-kind contribution in the form of preparing the draft policy brief on informal carers with some financial support from Austria.

IX. Other business, summary and conclusion of the annual session

46. The Chair reminded participants that the WGA completed its 10 years of activities and invited the long-standing members of the group to share their experiences and expectations in retrospect over those years. Erika Winkler (Austria, former WGA Chair), Anahit Martirosyan (Armenia, former Vice-Chair), Pietro Checcucci (Italy), Aleš Kenda (Slovenia) and Manuel Montero Rey (Spain) took the floor and spoke about witnessing the maturing of the WGA and the impact that participation in the intergovernmental activities had on their professional and to some extent personal life. Following these interventions, the secretariat briefed participants about the broadening of communication activities and social media campaigns to promote the WGA work in the UNECE. A number of the Working Group members and NGOs were acknowledged for their contributions to a photo exhibition “Celebrating older human rights champions” that took place in the Palais des Nations on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons.

47. In the closing session, the Chair summarized the main items discussed and decisions taken at the eleventh meeting of the WGA. The main elements and decisions were projected on screen for input/approval by the WGA members. An overview of decisions taken is included in the Annex I to this report.

48. The eleventh meeting of the Bureau will be hosted by Portugal on 6-7 May 2018.

49. The twelfth meeting of the WGA will take place on 18-19 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland and will be followed by a policy seminar on 20 November 2019.

50. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Annex I

Decisions taken at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Ageing

-  The WGA adopted the agenda (ECE/WG.1/2018/1) without amendments.
-  Under item 2(b) of the agenda, the Working Group requested the secretariat and the Bureau to reflect the comments made and prepare a final draft of new Terms of Reference for the Working Group.
-  The final draft of the new Terms of Reference will be provided after the meeting to the national focal points for electronic consultation and for endorsement.
-  Once endorsed by the WGA members, the new Terms of Reference will be submitted to the ECE Executive Committee for review and decision (tentatively at the meeting scheduled in February 2019).
-  Under item 4 of the agenda, the Working Group took note of the country policy developments presented and encouraged countries to regularly share their novel approaches in addressing population ageing.
-  Under item 5(a) of the agenda, the Working Group approved the report on implementation of the main elements of the WGA work programme in 2018 as presented in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/4.
-  The Working Group commended the work done by the secretariat and the WGA members who were directly involved in the work programme activities in 2018.
-  Under item 5(b) of the agenda, the Working Group agreed on preliminary topics for future policy briefs and agreed to hold policy seminars back-to-back with the annual meetings of the WGA [confirmed by the response to the survey at the end of Policy Seminar on 21 November 2018].
-  The Working Group agreed to develop and publish guidelines for mainstreaming ageing as part of its work programme for 2019-2020.
-  The Working Group decided to form a task force of about 10-15 participants to work on the guidelines and to hold an event to launch the guidelines.
-  The Working Group agreed on the proposed main elements of the work programme for 2018-2022 as outlined in the document ECE/WG.1/2018/RD2 (Annex II).
-  Germany pledged additional contribution of € 50,000 in support of the WGA activities, in particular for the Policy seminar and organization of the guidelines launch event.
-  Portugal will host the next meeting of the Bureau on 6-7 May 2019.
-  The twelfth meeting of the WGA will take place on 18-19 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland and will be followed by a Policy seminar on 20 November.

Annex II

Working Group on Ageing

ECE/WG.1/2018/RD2

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2018

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Main elements of the programme of work for 2018-2022

1. Introduction

1. The UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon in 2017 reaffirmed the mandate of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) and pledged support for its activities. The draft programme of work for 2018-2022 foresees new and continuing elements of the WGA activities in response to the main goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The realization of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS) contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 8, 1, 5, 10, and 4 where the connections between the priority policy goals agreed in the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and the SDGs are the strongest.

2. The new programme of work builds on the core activities which proved helpful in implementing MIPAA/RIS in the previous cycles: policy briefs, road maps for mainstreaming ageing, capacity-building workshops and monitoring of MIPAA/RIS implementation. These activities will be continued and adjusted to societal developments. They will be supplemented by new programme elements such as policy seminars and in-depth discussions focusing on specific elements under the three main goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration.

3. To provide opportunities for exchange of experience with regard to the implementation of national strategies on ageing, networking and cross-sectoral collaboration to advance policies on ageing, including in relation to connecting ageing with the SDGs, the annual WGA meetings will continue dedicating time for country presentations and discussion group break-out sessions. In addition, the inter-agency coordination facilitated by the secretariat through the regular meetings of Geneva-based United Nations agencies and civil society organizations working on ageing will ensure regular communication and exchange on activities at the international level.

2. Main elements of the programme of work

4. The draft programme of work for 2018-2022 foresees activities in four main areas: (a) policy seminars and in-depths discussions; (b) preparation of policy briefs with good practice examples; (c) capacity development; and (d) monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking. The suggested activities are in line with the EXCOM-approved programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/WG.1/2017/5), and the Draft Strategic Framework 2020-2021 for the

Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme (ECE/WG.1/2017/Room Document 1).

A. Policy seminars and in-depth discussions

5. The policy-specific seminars or “master-classes” that focus on policy challenges and responses developed by member States will be organized back-to-back with annual Working Group meetings to facilitate participation. Topics for policy seminars will be decided in consultation with the member States during the annual WGA meetings or based on an online questionnaire.

6. In-depths discussions based on papers/presentations prepared by invited experts to strengthen understanding of evidence-based and gender-sensitive policymaking will be organized during the annual WGA meeting (possibly every second year). The expert papers will preferably draw on survey-based research in the area of ageing and intergenerational relations such as the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), and others.

B. Policy Briefs with good practice examples

7. Policy briefs remain an important element of the new programme of work, as they provide access to evidence-based policy advice on specific aspects of MIPAA/RIS and showcase good practices from across the region. At least one policy brief per year will be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on a theme to be decided by the Working Group at its annual session. Topics reflecting the goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration might be suggested by the discussion groups for consideration at the plenary session of the WGA meeting. Discussions during the policy seminars could also lead to development of a policy brief on a similar topic.

8. In accordance with the established pattern, the future Policy Briefs will include a gender-sensitive analysis of policy challenges and information about available policy options along with good practice examples, which will be prepared with inputs from the WGA discussion groups and the countries implementing the corresponding policies. Relevant sex and age-disaggregated statistical data should be included when available. UNECE member States are invited to translate the Policy Briefs into national languages to share ideas and make them accessible to a wider circle of professionals, policymakers and volunteers.

C. Capacity development

a) National and subregional workshops

9. In the UNECE region there are considerable differences among countries in relation to the stage of population ageing and the implementation of MIPAA/RIS. Therefore, in the work programme for the fourth cycle of MIPAA/RIS, priority could be given to national and subregional workshops that focus on specific challenges in the implementation of the goals of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. The WGA members are expected to contribute to such workshops alongside international organizations and the secretariat.

b) Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing and reviews of national policies on ageing

10. The Working Group is making efforts to develop capacity through the project on Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing. The aim of the project is to provide guidance to individual member States on how to formulate ageing-related policies in response to MIPAA/RIS. Ensuring synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, future road maps for mainstreaming ageing will be designed in alignment with the national implementation of the SDGs. Road Maps are developed at the request of a member State

and in accordance with the general terms of reference for the project approved by the WGA at its sixth meeting in November 2013.

11. In 2018-2022 the secretariat, with the support of WGA members, will be able to engage in the development of two Road Map projects. To initiate development of the Road Map project, interested member States are invited to submit their written requests to the secretariat.

12. Field missions and other activities related to the evaluation and monitoring of road map implementation in the Republic of Moldova and/or Georgia, where the projects were completed in 2012 and 2015, respectively, may be undertaken if programme funding permits. Similarly, a peer assessment of recently developed national policies/strategies on ageing that were based on the Active Ageing Index framework could be considered.

c) Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing in the relevant policy areas

13. The Working Group in cooperation with the experts from academia and civil society organizations will develop more comprehensive guidance for mainstreaming ageing in all relevant policy areas. The recommendations will build on the acquired expertise through the Road Map projects and will be designed to integrate the objectives of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

D. Monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking

14. Monitoring MIPAA/RIS implementation and strengthening the evidence base for age- and gender-sensitive policymaking are core elements of the WGA programme of work for 2018-2022. They aim to (1) provide evidence for the ongoing review of policies towards raising the quality of life of older women and men and (2) engage key stakeholders in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that can improve the experiences of ageing for all and maintain the interconnected financial and social sustainability of public welfare systems in the UNECE region.

15. The approaches initiated during the third MIPAA/RIS implementation cycle will be pursued to strengthen monitoring capacities:

a) The WGA, supported by the UNECE secretariat and in collaboration with the European Commission, will strengthen the basis for using the Active Ageing Index (AAI) to monitor the implementation of MIPAA/RIS. In 2018-2019, in the framework of the ongoing "AAI – third phase" project, the secretariat will coordinate implementation of several activities including carrying out AAI updates (total and by sex), examining its dynamics over the last decade and broadening country coverage as well as its application at subnational and local level.

b) The follow-up on recommendations of the UNECE Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics (with the voluntary participation of some WGA members) as well as the ongoing work of the UNECE Task Force on measuring old-age population in institutions should help to devise the core set of indicators to support the monitoring of MIPAA/RIS implementation and complement the national reports during the fourth review and appraisal cycle.

16. The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) remains an essential component of data collection and research for the UNECE work on population issues. The secretariat will continue coordinating the GGP as an important gender-sensitive source of evidence for policymaking and monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. Further participating countries will be sought, and the scientific community will be encouraged to use the data for their research. The secretariat will continue to update the bibliography of publications using GGP data.

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

17. The decision of the Commission for Social Development about the procedure for the fourth review and appraisal exercise is to be taken at its 58th session in 2020 and is expected to follow in a similar manner to the previous review and appraisal exercises. In the process, synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the follow-up to the 25-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +25) will be sought, especially in the context of responding to population dynamics within a human rights framework, including women's empowerment and gender equality.

18. In preparation of the fourth periodic review of the implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the UNECE region, a 20-year review of developments in addition to the more specific follow-up on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration objectives will be conducted. The secretariat will coordinate the preparation of the MIPAA+20 report and, funding permitting, will engage a research consultant to develop it. The twentieth anniversary of RIS will also provide an opportunity to revisit the strategy to enhance alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19. For timely and successful completion of the fourth review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA/RIS in 2022, the preparatory work may start at the twelfth meeting of the WGA in 2019 including an agreement on the timeline for preparation and submission of the country reports and their synthesis and on an outline of the guidelines for the country reports. Based on the outcomes of the discussion at the twelfth WGA meeting in 2019, the guidelines will be finalized and disseminated by the Bureau after its meeting in spring 2020. This will give member States about 15 months to document progress made and prepare country reports on the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. The secretariat will prepare a synthesis report.

20. The preparatory work for the fifth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing will start with the decision of the Commission for Social Development about the fourth review and appraisal exercise at its 58th session in 2020. UNECE member States will be invited to consider hosting the 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The potential host country will be invited to prepare a concept note for the fifth Ministerial Conference for discussion at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group in 2020.

21. At its thirteenth meeting, the Working Group will start to function as the preparatory committee for the conference and will decide about the title of the conference and the possible political outcome document to conclude the fourth 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. The host country will set up a conference support team led by a high-level representative and will work in close cooperation with the WGA Bureau and the secretariat.

3. Financing the programme of work

22. The Working Group's initial terms of reference (ECE/EX/2008/L.11) and their later amendments stipulated that its annual meetings are to be serviced by the UNECE secretariat without the need for additional resources (for the latest terms of reference see ECE/EX/2018/L.1. Annex 1). At the same time, member States agreed to establish a fund for voluntary contributions to support activities related to capacity development for ageing-related policymaking, better informed ageing-related policies in the region and more effective implementation of MIPAA/RIS.

23. The Population Unit in the Statistical 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 for two professional posts in the unit that limits the range of activities in the proposed programme of work. Delivering the activities and outputs envisaged for the fourth implementation cycle of MIPAA/RIS will require extrabudgetary resources to hire consultants and finance travel for experts and meeting participants from low- and lower-medium income countries. In response to the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, members of the Working Group are invited to pledge financial resources and offer in-kind contributions in support of the implementation of the programme of work for 2018-2022.
