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Working Group on Ageing

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 21 and 22 November 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the regional Ministerial conference in 2012

Draft annotated provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing¹

To be held in Vienna, Austria, 19-20 September 2012.

Note by Austria and Secretariat

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.

Based on the discussion at the third meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing and on follow-up electronic consultations with the Bureau members, Austria together with the secretariat has developed this provisional agenda for the Conference. To facilitate discussion, a compact outline of the agenda is included in the Annex of this document. The list of suggested keynote speakers, panel members and rapporteurs will be provided separately.

¹ This draft document was submitted for consultations. Not to be quoted.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda
2. Election of 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
4. Panel discussions
 - (a) Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability
 - (b) Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons
 - (c) Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity
5. Opening of the ministerial segment and election of Chair
6. Setting the stage for the Ministerial declaration 2012
7. Panel discussion between Ministers and civil society representatives: Stimulating intergenerational dialogue and solidarity between the generations: a shared responsibility
8. Presentation of the civil society declaration and of the research community declaration
9. Ministerial panel discussions:
Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing
 - (a) Promoting longer working life, participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons
 - (b) Promoting quality of life in older age; Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity
10. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration
11. Closing of the Conference

II. Annotations

1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

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

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference

1. A high-level representative of Austria will open the Conference. High-level officials from Austria and the UNECE secretariat will make opening statements. The Conference will adopt its agenda.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

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

2. 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: Overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region

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

4. The UN Focal point on Ageing will brief on global progress in MIPAA implementation (up to 5 minutes).

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

4. Panel discussions

Timing: Wednesday, 19 September, 11.15–6.00 p.m.

6. Each panel will be composed of mainly government representatives. In addition, one representative from the research community and one representative from a non-governmental organization will take part in the discussion. In the first expert panel representatives from international associations representing employers and employees will also participate. A rapporteur will be designated to each panel.

7. Following the introduction of panellists by the panel's Chair, a keynote speaker will make a 15 minute intervention, introducing the issues of the 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.

8. 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.

9. The rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists and discussants in a brief concluding statement (up to 5 minutes).

(a) Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability

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

10. 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 make working longer fully possible and attractive, and how changes in pension systems could motivate all generations to work longer.

(b) Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons

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

11. 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 panellists 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.

(c) Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity

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

12. 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.

5. Opening of the ministerial segment and election of Chair

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.00 a.m.–9.20 a.m.

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

6. Setting the stage for the Ministerial declaration 2012

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.20 a.m.–9.30 a.m.

Documentation: Draft Ministerial Declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing”

14. The Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee (Declaration Drafting Group) will introduce main elements of the draft declaration (20 min).

15. If delegations have concrete suggestions for any reformulations, they should be delivered in writing by lunchtime, 12 a.m..

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

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 9.30 a.m.–11.00 a.m.

16. The panel will be composed of three ministers and three representatives of civil society. A rapporteur will be designated for the panel.

17. 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.

18. 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.

**8. Presentation of the civil society declaration and of the research
community declaration**

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 11.30 a.m.–11.45 a.m.

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

**9. Ministerial panel discussions:
Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active
ageing**

- (a) **Promoting longer working life, participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion
of older person**

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 11.45 a.m.–1.15 p.m.

- (b) **Promoting quality of life in older age; Creating an enabling environment for health,
independence and ageing in dignity**

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 2.45 p.m.–4.15 p.m.

20. The two panels will consist of ministers and executive heads of international organizations. One representative of a non-governmental organization will also participate in each. A rapporteur will be designated for each panel.

21. Following the introduction of panellists by the panel’s Chair, a keynote speaker will make a 15 minutes intervention. This will be followed by statement of panellists, 5 minutes each, and an interactive discussion. The rapporteur will summarise the main points raised by the panellists in a brief concluding statement.

22. This panel follows the same composition and format as the one under Item 9a. Statements and interventions in this and previous ministerial panels are expected to address the issues in the ministerial declaration.

10. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 4.15 p.m.–4.40 p.m.

Documentation: Draft Ministerial Declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing”

11. Closing of the Conference

Timing: Thursday, 20 September, 4.40 p.m.–5.00 p.m.

Documentation: Chairperson’s summary

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

Annex

Outline of the Agenda of the 2011 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

<i>Introduction & Panel Sessions</i>		<i>Ministerial Day</i>	
<i>Day 1 (Wednesday, 19 September 2012)</i>		<i>Day 2 (Thursday, 20 September 2012)</i>	
<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>	
8.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	Accreditation & Registration	9.00 a.m. 9.20 a.m.	Opening of the ministerial segment, election of Chair
9.30 a.m. 10.10 a.m.	Opening of the conference, adoption of the agenda, election of Chair	9.20 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	Setting a stage for the ministerial declaration 2012
10.10 a.m. 10.45 a.m.	Overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region	9.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Panel discussion between Ministers and civil society representatives: Stimulating intergenerational dialogue and solidarity between the generations: a shared responsibility
10.45 a.m. 11.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	11.00 a.m. 11.30 a.m.	<i>Press Conference, coffee break</i>
11.15 a.m. 1.00 p.m.	Panel discussion: a) Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability	11.30 a.m. 11.45 a.m.	Presentations of the Civil society Declaration and Research Community Declaration
1.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch, side events, poster exhibition</i>	11.45 a.m. 1.15 p.m.	Ministerial panel (I) Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing a) Promoting longer working life, participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons
2.30 p.m. 4.00 p.m.	Panel discussion: b) Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons	1.15 p.m. 2.45 p.m.	<i>Lunch, side events, poster exhibition</i>
2.30 p.m. 4.00 p.m.	Panel discussion: b) Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons	2.45 p.m. 4.15 a.m.	Ministerial panel (II) Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing b) Promoting quality of life in older age; Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity
4.00 p.m. 4.30 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	4.15 p.m. 4.40 p.m.	Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration 2012
4.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Panel discussion: c) Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity	4.40 p.m. 5.00 p.m.	Closing: Chairperson's summary, closing statements