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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

The WGA work programme for 2012-2013 and beyond

Main elements of the programme of work for 2013*

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 2013. The suggested activities are based on the agreed outputs and deliverables in the 'Draft programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing for 2012-2013 under the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme' (ECE/WG.1/2011/5), adopted at the fourth meeting of the Working Group in 2011.

2. The activities are planned in the four areas as defined in the previously agreed programme: (a) preparation of policy briefs with good practice examples; (b) monitoring implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA), including work on indicators of achievement; (c) capacity development; and (d) analysis of intergenerational relationships. In 2013 the secretariat will also undertake some activities in response to the GA Resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994).

3. The mandate of the Working Group was reaffirmed at the 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna. Therefore, based on the priorities formulated in the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration, the Working Group is also invited to start discussion on principal elements of its general Programme of Work for the third cycle of the MIPAA/RIS implementation (2013-2017). 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.

* This document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline due to processing delays

II. Proposals for the programme of work for 2013

A. Policy briefs with good practice examples

4. One policy brief will be prepared by the UNECE secretariat in 2013 on the theme to be decided by the Working Group at its current session. Among the suggested topics are: "Abuse of older person"; "Rights of older persons"; "Improvement of services through information technologies" and "The working world of tomorrow: Young and old working together". 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. The policy brief will also include, if appropriate, information from the UNECE Generations and Gender Surveys and contextual databases.

B. Monitoring implementation of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

5. The work in this area will continue within the framework of the project on Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI) of RIS/MIPAA, led by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (ECV).

6. The UNECE secretariat and ECV, under the joint project with the European Commission (EC), concluded the first phase of the development of an Active Ageing Index (AAI) in 2012. In 2013, EC, UNECE and ECV will collaborate on improving further the methodology and extending country coverage for the AAI. Following the field studies and endorsement by the stakeholders, the AAI may be introduced as a useful tool for monitoring implementation of RIS/MIPAA in the third cycle.

C. Capacity development

7. The secretariat will be ready to start the preparation of a Road Map on mainstreaming ageing for Georgia. First exploratory discussions have taken place during a mission to the country under a pilot study on AAI. It should be noted that work in this important area of implementation of RIS/MIPAA is contingent upon the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

8. MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, with the participation of UNECE is developing a programme for the third capacity building training workshop in Israel on the topic "Community services for the elderly". The workshop will take place in Haifa, Israel in April 2013 and will be conducted in English. The UNECE focal points on ageing are invited to inform potential participants in their countries. MASHAV will cover the cost of full board and accommodation for the participants from the transition economies.

D. Generations and gender relationships

9. The Gender and Generations Programme remains an essential component of data collection and research for the UNECE work on population issues, providing a knowledge base for formulating and implementing policies and programmes in follow-up to the 2012 Ministerial Conferences on Ageing.

10. The secretariat will continue coordinating the Gender and Generations Programme as the major source of evidence for implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. Further participating countries will be sought through measures of advocacy and dissemination of information about the programme. The scientific community will be encouraged to use the data for their research and the secretariat will continue to update the bibliography of publications using GGP data.

E. Regional review on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in UNECE countries

11. In response to the GA Resolution 65/234 and within the framework of the UNECE/UNFPA project for the 20-year assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD in the UNECE region, the secretariat carries out activities related to coordination of the review and global survey in UNECE countries. In 2013, the secretariat will work on consolidation of the surveys analytical results into a regional report and will coordinate the validation exercise on the report. The final validation and launch of the UNECE report will take place during the Regional High-level Conference on ICPD implementation planned on 1-2 July 2013 in Geneva.

12. The mainstreaming ageing being at the core of the UNECE countries' agenda in the area of population and development, the secretariat will seek to integrate the findings from the 2012 Synthesis Report on MIPAA/RIS implementation into the review and ICPD Beyond 2014 programme.

III. Financing the programme of work for 2013

13. The terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing (ECE/EX/2008/L.11) stipulate that the annual meetings of the Working Group are to be serviced by the UNECE secretariat without the need for additional resources.

14. 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 for 2013. Delivering the activities and outputs included in the proposals for the Programme of Work for 2013 as well as those to be envisaged for the third implementation cycle of RIS/MIPAA will require extra-budgetary resources. Members of the Working Group are invited to pledge financial resources and offer in-kind contributions in support of the Programme of Work for 2013.

15. The estimated financing needs for the 2012-2013 programme of work were presented and discussed in detail during the fourth meeting of the Working Group and subsequently a letter of appeal for funding to the Member States was issued (ECE/WG.1/2011/2). Some programmed activities in 2012 were carried out with the support from the joint project on AAI financed by European Commission while participation of a number of delegates from transition countries in the Ministerial Conference and the fifth meeting of the Working Group was supported from the joint UNECE/UNFPA project. In March 2012 Israel hosted the second workshop on Community care for the elderly and Belgium hosted the Bureau meeting in Brussels. The most substantial contribution was made by Austria in holding the UNECE Ministerial Conference in Vienna in September 2012.

16. In July 2012 Estonia contributed 3'200 Euros to the UNECE Ageing Trust Fund which will be used to support the Working Group programmed activities in 2013. Serbia will host

the fifth Bureau meeting in Belgrade in spring 2013. The European Commission indicated as probable an extension of the AAI project that may indirectly support the ECV work on monitoring the implementation of RIS/MIPAA. The activities related to the ICPD regional review will be financed from the on-going UNECE/UNFPA project.
