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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning**Biennial evaluation report for 2012-2013****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document provides an overview of the performance assessment of the population component of Subprogramme 8: Housing, Land Management and Population. It is drawn up in line with the decision of the Commission requesting each Sectoral Committee including the Working Group on Ageing to conduct biennial evaluations.

The biennial performance assessment divides the population component's areas of work into two clusters. It establishes links between these clusters and the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the 2012-2013 Strategic Framework.

The Working Group on Ageing is invited to endorse the assessment.

I. Cluster 1: Population ageing**A. Expected accomplishment**

1. Enhanced policies and actions for adjusting societies to population ageing.

B. Indicators of achievement

2. Increased number of countries that have adjusted policies or introduced new measures to implement the ECE Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Performance measures:

Baseline	2008-2009:	22 countries
	2010-2011:	26 countries
Target	2012-2013:	30 countries (implemented 30)

C. Statement of accomplishments

3. Recognizing the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing, the UNECE member States in 2002 endorsed a Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). This strategy outlines ten commitments for changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all areas of society so that the potential of ageing in the twenty-first century may be fulfilled.

4. Based on the national reports submitted to UNECE within the framework of the second review and appraisal cycle for MIPAA/RIS in 2012, at least 30 UNECE countries have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures in order to contribute to the fulfilment of one or more of the RIS commitments that is seen as most pertinent to their specific situations. The second review and appraisal culminated in a Ministerial Conference in September 2012 in Vienna, Austria. The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference outlined achievements and identified priority areas for the next five-year cycle of implementation.

5. The Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in the Republic of Moldova, published in 2012 and later adopted as a national strategic document has especially contributed to enhancing implementation of MIPAA/RIS in this country. UNECE has continued to support implementation of the Road Map.

6. The Population unit, via the Working Group on Ageing, has provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the necessary societal adjustments to population ageing, as well as on means of monitoring the mainstreaming of ageing issues into national policy frameworks. The series of Policy Briefs on Ageing with three new issues published has facilitated the exchange of examples of good practice in the UNECE region.

D. Lessons learned

7. The outstanding turnout in participation at the Ministerial Conference (including delegations from 50 UNECE Member States with 27 Ministers, Deputy Ministers and State Secretaries) showed the high-level commitment of UNECE member States to the MIPAA/RIS process. The regional review of MIPAA/RIS implementation for the period 2007-2012 revealed laudable progress in policy-development. The review also indicated that efforts are specifically needed in four areas, namely (1) the labour market; (2) participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons; (3) dignity, health and independence in older age and (4) intergenerational solidarity.

8. Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing have been appreciated as a means to enhance policy-making and implementation taking into account the specific situation in a given country. Road Maps designed for one country have also provided useful tools for

policymakers in other countries facing similar situations. A self-evaluation of the Road Maps provided some insight on how to further strengthen this instrument. UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing have been appreciated to provide guidance on specific priority areas, highlighting good practices from across the region.

II. Cluster 2: Generations and Gender

A. Expected accomplishment

9. Improved national and international knowledge base for policymaking on issues related to intergenerational relationships, gender, family and fertility.

B. Indicators of achievement

10. Increased number of countries engaged in national data collection and analysis in the ECE Generations and Gender Programme.

Performance measures:

Baseline	2008-2009: 17 countries 2010-2011: 18 countries
Target	2012-2013: 19 countries (implemented 19)

C. Statement of accomplishments

11. The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) has both contributed to and benefited from its incorporation into the programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing. The rich data provided by the Generations and Gender Surveys and the accompanying contextual database have provided material for empirical analysis to support the Working Group's in-depth policy discussions, and have been used to illustrate a variety of aspects in the Policy Briefs on Ageing. Conversely, the Working Group has provided an important channel for the findings of GGP-based research to reach policymakers – which is of central importance to the programme since policy relevance is one of the key objectives of the GGP. This raised the profile of GGP and contributed to it becoming one of the most important cross-national data sources on demographic and related issues in the UNECE region.

12. Confirming that the knowledge base for policymaking has been enhanced, the UNECE-maintained database of GGP-based research has become a large and growing resource, with the titles of research articles attesting to both the breadth of topics and the policy relevance of the research being undertaken with the GGP data.

13. As the GGP matures and becomes more widely recognized more countries are considering participation in the programme. By the end of 2013, 19 countries – including most recently Poland - have collected or are collecting Generations and Gender Survey data. At the end of 2013, 15 first-wave country data sets are available online free of charge to interested researchers for analysis. The first five data sets of the second wave have become available online for research and analysis purposes during 2012. UNECE is actively supporting new potential participating countries, as well as the collection of additional waves.

D. Lessons learned

14. The intergovernmental aspect of UNECE's involvement in the GGP has been of unique value throughout the existence of the programme. UNECE has been in a unique position to provide the linkages between research and policy-making, encouraging policy-relevant research using the GGP data and building awareness about the importance of internationally comparable data sets as a basis to compare policy-responses and identify the most effective strategies under specific contextual circumstances. There has been a growing interest among researchers to use the data which is also illustrated by the high visibility of GGP-based research at international scientific conferences as well as at policy-events such as the Ministerial Conference on Ageing 2012 in Vienna where a scientific forum was held on the day preceding the Conference. The second user Conference in Milan, Italy, held in October 2013, attracted a variety of researchers from around the world presenting outcomes of GGP data analysis.

III. Additional activity: 20 years of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

A. 'ICPD Beyond 2014' Survey and UNECE Regional Conference

15. In 2012-2013, following the General Assembly Resolution 65/234, the UNECE Population unit was engaged in the joint project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on assessing the progress of and identifying policy priorities and actions for implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) for the period beyond 2014.

16. A comprehensive survey was conducted among UNECE member States to state achievements and challenges in implementing the ICPD PoA. Based on completed questionnaires received from 45 UNECE countries a regional report was prepared highlighting trends and identifying areas that need additional efforts.

17. The UNECE Regional Conference "Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century" was held on 1-2 July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was attended by 43 country delegations as well as NGOs, scientists and international organizations with a total of more than 300 participants. The UNECE regional report was launched during the high-level plenary session of the Conference. The Chair's summary provided the main outcome document.

B. Lessons learned

18. The Conference showed a basic agreement among participants about the need to respect the rights of individuals, to promote gender equality and give special attention to vulnerable groups and families. The importance of promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and of providing access to comprehensive sexuality education was underlined, allowing individuals to take free, informed and responsible decisions without coercion. Investing in human capital was considered key for achieving sustainable development. This should include building capacities of adolescents and youth, allowing them to meaningfully participate in formulating policies. Population ageing was acknowledged as a major trend in the region which requires special attention. The need of

data collection, including on vulnerable and marginalized groups was emphasized in their importance as a basis for policy-making.
