The Working Group on Ageing (WGA)

**WGA:**
- Facilitates and oversees the implementation of the UNECE Regional Strategy for MIPAA
- In 2018-2022 will focus on the goals outlined in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration
- Established in 2008, meets annually
- Its work is driven by:
  - ECE member States: WGA & EXCOM
  - GA & ECOSOC endorsed regional mandates from UN Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Population and Development
46 national reports received (40 in 2012, 35 in 2007)
- Regional synthesis report published
- Comprehensive statistical annex including active ageing indicators compiled

3 main achievements and challenges by number of member States reporting

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<th>Quality of life, health and wellbeing (C7)</th>
<th>Social protection (C4)</th>
<th>Labour markets (C5)</th>
<th>Mainstreaming ageing (C1)</th>
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Ministerial Conference ‘A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer’ (21-22 September, Lisbon)
- Delegations from 46 ECE member States
- NGO & Researchers forums (20 September)

2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration setting agenda for next 5 years (4th implementation cycle of RIS/MIPAA):
- Recognizing the potential of older persons
- Encouraging longer working life and ability to work
- Ensuring ageing with dignity
• **Policy Briefs**
  - Older persons in rural and remote areas
  - Realizing the potential of living longer

• **Monitoring and strengthening the evidence base for policy making**
  - **Active Ageing Index**
    2 studies on criteria-specific analysis of AAI results in Germany and Poland allowing better-targeted policy measures
  - **Generations and Gender Programme**
    Harmonized data from surveys in 19 ECE countries
    Two ECE countries joined GGP recently:
    - Belarus - successfully completed survey in 2017
    - Kazakhstan – started preparations for survey in 2018
Activities in 2018 and beyond

- Start of the 4th cycle of MIPAA/RIS implementation: focus on the goals of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration
  - Capacity-building workshop (back to back with annual meeting in November 2018)
  - Two new policy briefs in 2018
    - Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age
    - Ageing in urban environments
  - Interest in developing road maps for mainstreaming ageing expressed by Belarus and Bulgaria
Activities in 2018 and beyond

- 2nd International Seminar on Active Ageing Index
  - Analysis and new rounds of AAI calculation with latest available data

- Generations and Gender Programme
  - Support to post-survey work on data in Belarus, launch of survey in Kazakhstan
  - Release of harmonized 3rd wave data for Australia, France, Hungary and the Netherlands

- Strengthen collaboration with other organizations
  - Joint project with UNFPA on enhancing the integration of population dynamics in development planning, aligning closely with SDGs
  - Continued collaboration with European Commission on AAI
  - Exchange on ageing through Geneva-based inter-agency group
Follow-up on Lisbon Ministerial Declaration

- Article 38 of the Lisbon Declaration acknowledged the need to explore the possibility of a resource-neutral transformation of the WGA to a standing sectoral committee without prejudice to the work of UNECE in other areas of its mandate.

- At its 10th meeting in November 2017, the WGA decided to set up a consultation group to explore the next steps. Austria, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia volunteered to join this group. The Russian Federation joins as an observer.

- Secretariat works on clarifying the modalities and timeline for this process.
In conclusion

- Now in its 10th year of operation, the Working Group on Ageing undertakes work that matters to countries in the region
- Member States remain strongly committed to and engaged in its activities and support them both financially and in kind
- Work is done in close collaboration with major partners to avoid duplication (UNFPA, WHO, ILO, etc.) and involving civil society
- Most of its outputs (policy briefs, road maps, monitoring tools) have an impact on advancing policies at regional, national and sub-national levels
Issues for EXCOM decision

- EXCOM is invited to
  - Approve the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing for the period 2018-2022 (ECE/EX/2018/L.1)
  - Comment on the achievements and future priorities of the Working Group on Ageing (Chair’s report)
Thank you!