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Working Group on Ageing

Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Lisbon, 21-22 September 2017

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”

Summary

In June 2015, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted the resolution E/Res/2015/5 on Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (MIPAA). The resolution requested the regional commissions to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, including by organizing the regional review meetings. In response to this resolution, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) decided to organize the fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing as a concluding regional event of the third cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS).

The 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing took place from 21 to 22 September 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal. Delegations from 46 ECE member States, including 31 ministers and deputy ministers/state secretaries and a number of high-level officials, the European Union (EU) Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, as well as other participants from the European Commission and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, scientists and other stakeholders discussed progress made in implementing MIPAA/RIS between 2012 and 2017. The Ministerial Conference in Lisbon adopted the Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”. The proceedings of the Conference are briefly reflected in this report, which includes three annexes: the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, the list of speakers and a summary table of the number of participants.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) every five years. In Resolution E/Res/2015/5 the Economic and Social Council agreed on the modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. The Economic and Social Council decided that the procedure for the third review and appraisal of MIPAA would follow the set procedure of the second review and appraisal exercise and requested regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal process at the regional level, including through organizing regional review meetings. The Economic and Social Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report with the conclusions of the third review and appraisal exercise, together with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session in 2018.

2. The third review and appraisal in the ECE region culminated in the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing that took place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 21 to 22 September 2017. The ministerial segment was held on 22 September.

3. Overall, delegations from 46 ECE member States participated in the Conference. The following member States were represented: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan. Ministers and deputy ministers/state secretaries from 31 ECE member States attended the Conference. The majority of other delegations was led by high-level officials from specialized government departments and agencies. Furthermore, government delegations from Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, India, and Mozambique attended the Conference as observers.

4. Representatives from the Council of Europe, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated. In total, 10 intergovernmental organizations participated in the Conference. In addition, thanks to the NGO Forum and the Research Forum that took place on the day preceding the Ministerial Conference, numerous representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as scientists took part in the Conference.

A. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

5. Mr. José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal, Mr. Adalberto Campos Fernandes, Minister of Health of Portugal, and Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of ECE, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Conference elected Mr. José António Vieira da Silva (Portugal) as the Chairperson and Ms. Martina Vuk, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Slovenia) as Vice-Chairperson for both Conference days. Conference participants adopted the agenda.

B. Overview of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the ECE Region

6. In the framework of preparations for the Conference, 45 member States submitted national reports for the third review and appraisal of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA), based on the guidelines provided by the ECE secretariat. The secretariat presented a summary of findings from these country reports (ECE/AC.30/2017/3).

7. The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons reported via video message on the findings related to the assessment of human rights implications of MIPAA implementation in the region.

C. Keynote address “Achieving a Sustainable Society for All Ages: Global goals require national and local action”

8. In his keynote address, the ILO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia noted the profound impact of demographic change on the world of work. Demographic change will shape the “future of work” alongside other transformations such as globalization, technology and environmental changes. Therefore, a comprehensive, multidimensional, integrated and innovative policy mix that takes account of interdependent factors including demographic changes, employment, labour migration, social protection and economic development is needed. He further emphasized the importance of a life-course approach to ensure simultaneously skill development and jobs for youth, adequate working conditions and social protection for those unemployed, jobs and training for older workers and sustainable pensions for retirees. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 8 on decent work strategies, provide a powerful instrument to advance decent work for all. Ageing is cutting across several objectives set by the Global Goals, notably Goal 1 on eradicating poverty, Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 10 on reduced inequality, which also implies developing sustainable social protection systems for all.

9. The Conference was addressed by HE Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of Portugal (the address was given after the first expert panel).

D. Expert panel discussions

10. Three expert panels were held on the following topics:

- (a) Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons;
- (b) Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work;
- (c) Ensuring Ageing with Dignity.

11. During the first expert panel on “Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons”, discussants highlighted the importance of challenging traditional perceptions of ageing and of devising strategies to sensitize societies to the value of older persons’ contribution to economy and society and their potentials. The contribution of older persons through volunteering was in particular emphasized. Policy measures that recognize and foster the potential of older persons include age-friendly services that enable their integration in the community and cater to their needs and interests. This includes opportunities for education and social participation, but also social security and access to health and social care services.

12. The first expert panel further highlighted the need to promote intergenerational solidarity as a key building block for cohesive and sustainable societies. Intergenerational

and lifelong learning are an important source for social capital. Enhancing contact between the generations through joint activities, for example in the context of volunteering or through encounters in multigenerational centres or multigenerational living arrangements can reduce negative stereotypes and foster mutual support.

13. The second expert panel on “Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work” discussed supply and demand side measures that reward later retirement, encourage employers to retain and hire older workers and promote labour mobility and employability throughout working lives. Speakers highlighted that new technologies and transformations in economies, labour markets and working lives increasingly require job and career mobility and flexibility. Lifelong learning and training to align employee skills to changing requirements of the labour market and skills recognition were seen as particularly important as part of life-course-oriented human resource policies and management. Support for jobseekers to facilitate labour market re-entry was discussed, as well as the importance of age-appropriate working conditions and the ability to combine paid employment with care responsibilities.

14. Panellists emphasized the importance of tripartite cooperation to advance change at both national and regional levels. European Social Partners informed the Conference about the Framework Agreement on Active Ageing and an Intergenerational Approach agreed in March 2017 which is based on the principle that shared commitment on the part of employers, workers and their representatives is needed to effect the changes needed. A good practice example of age-management at company level enriched the panel discussion, providing insights on the importance of human resources management to attract and retain talent and optimize the potentials of employees.

15. The third expert panel on “Ensuring Ageing with Dignity” highlighted effective and innovative concepts, policies and measures aimed at enabling “healthy ageing”, that is developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age. Discussants presented new policy approaches at national level that emphasize the importance of preventing loss of autonomy and independence. Speakers presented individualized care approaches that centre on the needs of the older person. Investments in supporting older persons to learn or relearn the skills necessary for daily living (“reablement”) can be cost-effective and rewarding for older persons and their caregivers. Age-friendly environments, including the development of person-centred and affordable assistive technologies and devices, were mentioned as important pillars of maintaining well-being and quality of life in later years.

16. Panellists further stressed the need to respect the human rights of older persons, ensure their social security and protect them from isolation, abuse and neglect. The importance of addressing negative attitudes towards older persons and eliminating age-based discrimination in access to services was stressed.

E. Opening of the ministerial segment

17. The ministerial segment opened on 22 September 2017. Introductory speeches were given by Mr. José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video message) and Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of ECE.

18. The Secretary to the Conference informed delegations that a proposal for amendment of paragraph 38 of the draft Ministerial Declaration was submitted by the Portuguese delegation by 9 a.m. and distributed to all delegations. The delegations were requested to present in writing any objections or last-minute comments for consideration before noon.

F. Presentation of the draft Ministerial Declaration

19. The Chairperson of the ECE Working Group on Ageing, Ms. Erika Winkler (Austria), informed the Conference about the drafting and intergovernmental consultation process of the Declaration and presented its elements under three main goals: recognizing the potential of older persons, encouraging longer working lives and ability to work, and ensuring ageing with dignity.

20. She thanked all national focal points on ageing for their engaged participation in the preparation of the Conference and its Declaration. As leaving chairperson after seven years of chairmanship she appreciated the progress of the work of the Working Group since its establishment. On the occasion of its tenth anniversary she invited ministers to consider a cost-neutral upgrading of the Working Group on Ageing to a standing sectoral committee of ECE, to acknowledge the growing importance of demographic change and to ensure stable working conditions under the regular procedures of a committee for the five-year period of MIPAA implementation and review.

G. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives

21. The high-level panel on “Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons: Intergenerational perspective” challenged the claim that there is an inherent conflict between generations as misguided and counterproductive. Discussants stressed the need to recognize the contributions of both younger and older generations to society and to tackle age-based discrimination. This necessitates deconstructing myths and stereotypes and enhancing mutual understanding. Panellists underlined the need to respect the human rights of both younger and older persons and to collaborate across generations, including enhancing collaboration between the organizations that represent the interest of both youth and older persons and avoiding thinking and acting in silos.

H. Presentation of the NGO declaration and the research community statement

22. The NGO declaration was presented by Mr. Dirk Jarré (European Federation of Older People) and the statement of the Research Forum was presented by Mr. Kai Leichsenring (European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research).

I. Ministerial round tables

23. The first ministerial round table focused on the topic “Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work”. The second ministerial round table discussed various aspects around the topic “Ensuring Ageing with Dignity”.

24. In the keynote speech opening the first ministerial round table, Ms. Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, underlined the social, economic and job-growth opportunities of a developed market for active and healthy ageing. She presented a number of European initiatives aimed at facilitating longer working lives. Following coordination through the European Semester, European countries have reformed pension systems and taken measures to prolong working lives and limit early retirement and have linked pensions to life expectancy. The European Pillar of Social Rights sets the framework to meet the challenges of an ageing Europe in a fast-paced world by highlighting the rights to quality and inclusive education, training and

lifelong learning. It also contains principles concerning equal opportunities, old-age income and pension, and inclusion of people with disabilities.

25. Commissioner Thyssen underlined the importance of providing jobs, skills and access to the workplace, goods and services as key necessities in prolonged working lives. Tackling unemployment is therefore a key priority. The European New Skills Agenda aims to get skills in line with labour market demand and the Upskilling Pathways Initiative aims to boost basic literacy and digital skills. Furthermore, the European Accessibility Act aims to improve access for everyone. And the Work Life Balance Initiative will make it easier to combine work with caring responsibilities, including caring for older relatives. Through the EU Smart Specialisation Strategy and with the support of EU funding, 110 European regions have identified Active Ageing as a strategic priority. Commissioner Thyssen welcomed the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration as a clear commitment to longer working life and as reflecting the guiding principles agreed at EU level in the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.

26. During the first ministerial round table discussion on “Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work”, ministers and the heads of delegations of a number of ECE member States affirmed the importance of prolonged working lives to the sustainability of welfare systems. In addition to pension reforms that increase retirement ages and remove disincentives for longer working lives, speakers emphasized measures that both encourage and enable older persons to work. These included promoting positive attitudes towards older persons in the workforce among employers and society as a whole, preventing discrimination, tackling unemployment, enhancing health and safety at work, adapting workplaces to the changing needs of older workers and introducing age-management approaches that create opportunities for training, age-appropriate working conditions, and flexible transitions to retirement. The importance of lifelong learning opportunities to ensure that skills remain aligned to job requirements across the working life span was underlined.

27. The second ministerial round table on “Ensuring ageing with dignity” highlighted multidimensional measures undertaken to ensure that older persons preserve independence self-determination and dignity in later life irrespective of their physical, emotional and cognitive capacities. Ministers and heads of delegations reported on undertaken measures that support older persons in their wish to live at home and in their communities as long as possible. Affordable and quality health and social care services in the home and community were mentioned. Speakers emphasized the promotion of accessible environments and age-friendly community initiatives that foster participation and inclusion of older persons and the importance of strengthening social bonds to fight loneliness and isolation. Several speakers mentioned measures taken to support informal caregivers in the family and community. The role and cooperation with civil society actors was also highlighted by many speakers.

28. Speakers further mentioned national efforts to provide quality long-term nursing home care services for those who cannot be cared for at their home. The importance of palliative care services to allow for an end of life in dignity was also mentioned. Many speakers underlined that ensuring ageing with dignity requires moving beyond a focus on health care. It includes changing negative attitudes about older persons and preventing poverty in older age through adaptations of social security systems that ensure that older persons can fully participate in society, that they enjoy a good quality of life and that their needs are met.

J. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

29. The Chairperson informed delegates of proposals that were received from the Portuguese delegation to amend paragraph 38 of the Declaration, and from the delegation of the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 37. The Russian delegation had also proposed changes for paragraph 38 based on the amendment suggested by the Portuguese delegation that were subsequently agreed by bilateral consultation. Both proposals were distributed in printed form to the heads of delegations before noon. No further amendments were submitted by delegations. The proposed final text of the Declaration was distributed to the delegations after the lunch break.

30. The Chairperson asked member States to adopt the final text of the Declaration containing the proposed amendments to paragraphs 37 and 38. The 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” was adopted by acclamation. It is included in Annex I of this report.

31. The Chairperson thanked the Declaration Drafting Group of the Working Group on Ageing and the ECE secretariat for the preparatory work and negotiation of consensus among ECE member States during the months running up to the Conference.

K. Closing of the Conference

32. The Chairperson invited the Secretary to the Conference, Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, to highlight the main elements of the Conference report.

33. In her closing remarks, Ms. Olga Algayerova congratulated member States for the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, which provides a strong foundation for better recognizing and harnessing the potential that longer lives offer to individuals and societies. She thanked delegations for their continued commitment to the ECE Working Group on Ageing and affirmed the ECE secretariat’s support to assist member States in the follow-up actions related to reaching the goals of the Lisbon Declaration.

34. Ms. Algayerova thanked the Portuguese Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security for hosting and organizing the Conference, and the City of Lisbon for its hospitality.

35. Mr. José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal, thanked the Vice-Chairperson for her support throughout the Conference and thanked all delegations and Conference participants for their contributions. He further thanked the European Commission for their support and the ECE secretariat and the local organizing committee for their work in organizing the Conference.

Annex I

2017 LISBON MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

“A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”

22 September 2017

Preamble

1. We, the representatives of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), gathered at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Ageing from 21 to 22 September 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal, reaffirm our commitment made in the Berlin Ministerial Declaration in 2002 and subsequently confirmed by the León (2007) and Vienna (2012) Ministerial Declarations to fulfil the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and to safeguard older persons' enjoyment of all human rights as laid down in the relevant international and regional instruments.

2. We note with satisfaction that life expectancy has increased for both women and men in the UNECE member States, although this increase in longevity is not always accompanied by good health. We particularly appreciate the richness of life experience and knowledge of older persons and their contributions for the benefit of our societies and their own personal fulfilment.

3. We recognize that the ongoing demographic changes present opportunities and challenges for policymaking and for individuals in our countries, and acknowledge a need for gender equality and intergenerational solidarity.

4. We appreciate that older persons are not a homogenous group, but diverse in their needs, preferences, and opportunities throughout their life course.

5. We acknowledge the significant progress made by many member States, either at the national or local level, in fulfilling the ten commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the third five-year cycle. At the same time, we are aware that the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the past five years has occurred in an environment of economic stagnation, pressures on social spending, rising migration and technological transformation. Notable achievements in implementation in the region include, among others, the following:

(a) increasing attention of policymakers, social partners, media, civil society and the general public to the issues of individual and population ageing, including the observance of older persons' dignity and enjoyment of all human rights, and recognition of their contributions to economic performance and society as well as to strengthening inter- and intragenerational solidarity

(b) advancing active ageing as the central concept and operational approach of national and regional policies on ageing

- (c) setting up measures to adapt national social protection systems and labour markets to the consequences of demographic changes
 - (d) growing involvement of civil society, in particular organizations of older persons, in the development of policies addressing the rights, needs and fulfilment of the potential of older women and men
 - (e) wider use of innovative approaches in providing services related to education and training, employment, culture, leisure and social tourism, rehabilitation, health and social care, including technological and organizational innovations, as well as promoting stronger cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder involvement in developing such services.
6. We note that some UNECE member States have still to develop more comprehensive policy responses to the individual and societal needs of ageing populations, while other member States need to secure or enhance the existing access of older persons to adequate social protection and well-functioning systems of health and long-term care including access to advanced treatments offered by medical progress.
7. We are also cognizant that policies on health and welfare of older persons in many member States need to be complemented with measures aimed at empowering older persons, particularly older women, safeguarding their dignity and preventing all forms of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect.
8. We realize that the contribution of growing numbers of older persons - as both consumers and producers - to economic and social innovation and development is not universally recognized. Likewise, the role of social and health service sectors supporting older persons calls for better appreciation not only as important and growing labour market, but also as contributing factor to the economy and social cohesion as well as healthy ageing.
9. We see a need to strengthen social cohesion in our societies by recognizing the potential of older persons and promoting opportunities for them to participate in society and the economy.
10. To foster the implementation of UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the fourth cycle from 2017 to 2021, we stress the importance of further mainstreaming ageing into relevant policy areas and combating ageism in its many forms. We stand together in reaffirming the commitment to designing and implementing integrated policies for active and healthy ageing, where older persons are continuously recognized as an asset for a sustainable and inclusive society for all ages.
11. We aspire to realize the potential of living longer and we are determined to work towards achieving the following policy goals by 2022:

I. Recognizing the potential of older persons

12. The recognition of the potential of older persons is to be carried out by:
- (a) empowering individuals to realize their potential for physical, mental and social well-being throughout their lives and to participate in and contribute to society according to their capacities, needs, and desires;

(b) developing and implementing socially responsible and future-oriented economic and financial strategies that encompass the needs, capacities and expectations of current and future generations, while valuing the potential of older persons, their life experience, their responsibility and support for all generations and for society;

(c) fostering effective consultations with, and involvement of, older persons and their representatives at the national, regional and local levels in designing policies, strategies and measures that directly or indirectly influence their lives, taking into account the diversity of older persons and their needs;

(d) promoting a positive image of older persons, acknowledging their contributions to society and strengthening multigenerational discourse and intergenerational learning by all stakeholders, cultivating a life-course perspective in education, the media and other areas to promote better understanding of individual and societal ageing and the opportunities it presents;

(e) fostering work and volunteering of younger and older persons in intergenerational settings to help them understand how important and rewarding communication, exchange of experiences, cooperation and intergenerational solidarity are in all areas of life, within and outside the family;

(f) encouraging businesses, non-profit organizations and public enterprises to involve older persons as consumers in the planning and design of goods and services to match their needs and preferences, and to engage them in monitoring the quality of such goods and services;

(g) ensuring that older persons can attain and maintain their highest possible level of health and functional capacity by supporting the development of age-friendly environments and housing, and adapting health and social care systems to provide integrated, prevention- and person-oriented services, including in deprived urban, rural and remote areas.

II. Encouraging longer working life and ability to work

13. A longer working life and ability to work is encouraged by:

(a) recognizing the potential embedded in the employment of older workers and developing labour market strategies to promote maximum participation opportunities for workers of all ages;

(b) fostering access to and promoting lifelong learning opportunities and development of skills as a prerequisite of an active and fulfilling life at all ages;

(c) developing strategies to fight unemployment at all ages, reducing financial inequalities and poverty, taking up measures to reduce the gender pay gap as well as other gender inequalities, and preventing age-related discrimination in employment;

(d) encouraging employers to value the experience of, and to retain and hire, older workers, promoting age management in both the public and private sectors, and supporting age-adapted, safe, health-promoting, and flexible working conditions throughout the entire working life

(e) providing incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible retirement choices and fostering alternatives to early retirement including, but not limited to, rehabilitation, reintegration into work and flexible employment options to retain older workers

(f) planning and implementing pension reforms, as far as not yet done, that take into account the increasing longevity and the extension of working lives, to ensure intergenerational fairness as well as the sustainability and adequacy of pension systems;

(g) facilitating the reconciliation of employment and care work, providing access to flexible working arrangements and appropriate care services, and promoting an equal division of care work between women and men, while considering a possibility to account for the time spent on tasks of family care in the calculation of the old-age pension.

III. Ensuring ageing with dignity

14. To ensure ageing with dignity, the following actions should be carried out:

(a) protecting older persons' enjoyment of all human rights and dignity, promoting their autonomy, self-determination and participation in society, and making sure that no law, policy or programme leaves room for discrimination of any kind;

(b) supporting the necessary infrastructure and assistance to prevent all types of abuse and violence against older persons, ensuring their economic, physical, and psychological safety;

(c) fostering the development of innovative methods and services as well as user- and age-friendly technology and products for reliable, accessible and affordable support and care suited to the varied and changing needs of older persons, allowing them to maintain social connections and stay in their preferred living environment for as long as possible;

(d) raising quality standards for integrated social and long-term care and health services, as appropriate, and continuously adapting the status, training and working conditions of professional care workers, including migrant care workers, to the growing need for culturally-sensitive care and health services, thus alleviating the strain on family and informal caregivers while also recognizing and supporting them in their fundamental role of providing care;

(e) supporting research on individual and population ageing processes to better address emerging needs in ageing societies, with special attention to the situation of persons with dementia and/or mental and behavioural disorders, and their families;

(f) promoting the participation of both persons with dementia and/or mental and behavioural disorders and their informal carers in social and community life, and ensuring integrated care on a local basis with treatment, care, and support after diagnosis as needed, especially through community-based services;

(g) respecting the self-determination, independence and dignity of older persons, especially, but not limited to, towards the end of life, through patient-centred medical and social care, including access to appropriate palliative care and aspiring to facilitate where possible the preferences of older couples to be cared for together.

IV. Final remarks

15. We emphasize that policies on ageing and their implementation are to be seen as a shared responsibility of all major actors in society. Consequently, there is a need for intergenerational dialogue and for effective collaboration among governments, policymakers, the private sector, social partners, researchers and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of and for older persons, including migrant organizations, and older men and women themselves.

16. We underline the importance of monitoring and evaluating ageing-related policies on the basis of research and improved data collection, as specified in the UNECE Recommendations on Ageing-related Statistics, involving older persons and their organizations throughout this process.

17. We recognize the relationship between population ageing and economic, social and environmental development and uphold our commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages, achieving gender equality, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as access to lifelong learning opportunities, and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for persons of all ages.

18. We acknowledge recent international initiatives that highlight the importance of a life-course approach in mitigating entrenched inequities by implementing comprehensive, multisectoral policies that can deliver stronger growth, greater inclusiveness, and more intergenerational mobility.

19. We acknowledge the adoption of the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2016 which calls for combatting ageism, developing age-friendly environments, aligning health systems to the needs of older populations and developing sustainable and equitable systems for providing long-term care (at home, in communities, and in institutions).

20. We acknowledge that the UNECE Working Group on Ageing has proven its added value as an intergovernmental body that provides an institutional framework for the exchange of information and good practice and for engaging stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community, in ageing-related policymaking. To further support the intergovernmental collaboration in the field of population ageing, we also acknowledge the need to explore the possibility of a resource-neutral transformation of the Working Group on Ageing to a standing sectoral committee without prejudice to the work of the UNECE in other areas of its mandate. We are committed to continue to actively participate in the Working Group for the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA and will contribute to its activities.

21. We appreciate the role of the UNECE secretariat and other stakeholders in assisting member States in implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA and the goals of the Ministerial Declaration 2017 through, inter alia, the support provided for developing national capacities on ageing.

22. We thank Portugal for hosting the fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2017.

Annex II

List of speakers

Thursday, 21 September 2017

Plenary session

- Chairperson: **Mr. José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security, Portugal
- Vice-chairperson: **Ms. Martina Vuk**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia
- Speakers: **Mr. José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security, Portugal
Mr. Adalberto Campos Fernandes, Minister of Health, Portugal
Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE
Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, OHCHR (video message)
Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief, Population Unit, UNECE
- Keynote Speaker: **Mr. Heinz Koller**, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, ILO
- Address by: **HE Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of the Republic of Portugal (after expert panel I)

Expert panel I

Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons

- Moderator: **Ms. Sarah Harper**, Co-Director, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford
- Panellists: **Ms. Elke Ferner**, Parliamentary Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
Ms. Ekaterina Antipova, Head of the Department, Faculty of Geography, Belarusian State University, Belarus
Ms. Anne-Kristin Boström, ENCELL, National Centre for Lifelong Learning, Sweden
Mr. Josh Collett, Vice-President, AARP, United States of America
Ms. Gulnara Minnigaleeva, Founder, Wisdom Ripening, Russian Federation

Expert panel II*Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work*

- Moderator: **Mr. Stefano Scarpetta**, Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD
- Panellists: **Mr. Bjørn Halvorsen**, Special Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Norway,
Mr. Boris Majcen, Director, Institute for Economic Research, Slovenia
Mr. Jorge Figueiredo, HR Director, Delta Cafés, Portugal
Ms. Montserrat Mir Roca, Confederal Secretary, ETUC
Mr. Nuno Biscaya, Representative, Business Europe

Expert panel III*Ensuring Ageing with Dignity*

- Moderator: **Mr. John Beard**, Director, Ageing and Life Course Department, WHO
- Panellists: **Mr. Pascal Froudière**, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Solidarity and Health, France
Mr. Miguel Valero Duboy, Director, State Reference Centre for Personal Autonomy and Technical Aid, IMSERSO, Spain
Ms. Tine Rostgaard, Danish Institute for Local and Regional Government Research, Denmark
Mr. José Pereira Miguel, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Ms. Nataša Todorović, Red Cross of Serbia
- Rapporteur: **Mr. Alexandre Sidorenko**, Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Friday, 22 September 2017

Ministerial segment: plenary session

- Speakers: **Mr. José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal
Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations (video message)
Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of ECE
Ms. Erika Winkler, Chairperson of the ECE Working Group on Ageing

Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives

Recognizing the Potential of Older Persons: Intergenerational perspective

- Moderator: **Ms. Mónica Ferro**, Director, UNFPA Geneva office
- Panellists: **Mr. Jānis Reirs**, Minister of Welfare, Latvia
Ms. Christl Kvam, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Norway
Mr. Greg Shaw, Director, International Federation on Ageing
Mr. Ebbe Johansen, Vice-President, Age Platform Europe
Mr. Luis Alvarado Martinez, President, European Youth Forum

Presentation of the NGO declaration and the research community statement

- Presenters: **Mr. Dirk Jarré**, President, EURAG
Mr. Kai Leichsenring, Executive Director, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Ministerial round table I

Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work

- Chairperson: **Ms. Stela Grigoraș**, Minister of Health, Labour, and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova
- Keynote address: **Ms. Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, European Commission
- Interventions: **Mr. Martin Klöti**, President of the Cantonal Ministers for Social Affairs, Switzerland
Mr. Grigory Lekarev, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Russian Federation
Ms. Edeltraud Glettler, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria
- Rapporteur: **Ms. Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak**, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Ministerial round table II

Ensuring Ageing with Dignity

- Chairperson: **Mr. Jim Daly**, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Ireland
- Interventions: **Mr. Artem Asatryan**, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia
Ms. Céline Fremault, Minister, Member of the French Community Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for the Policy on help to handicapped persons, social action, family and international relations, Belgium
Ms. Olga Krentovska, First Deputy Minister of Social Policy, Ukraine
HE Mr. Andreas Ignatiou, Ambassador of Cyprus in Lisbon, on behalf of **Ms. Zeta Emilianidou**, Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, Cyprus
- Rapporteur: **Mr. Giovanni Lamura**, National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

- Speakers: **Mr. José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal
Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of ECE

Closing

- Speakers: **Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich**, Chief, Population Unit, UNECE
Mr. José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security of Portugal

Annex III

Summary table of the list of participants

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Total</i>
Member State delegations	46
Government representatives / official delegates (ECE member States) – Total	130
of which	
- <i>Ministers</i>	12
- <i>Deputy ministers / state secretaries</i>	19
- <i>High-level representatives</i>	11
Observer government representatives	15
Representatives of international organizations	34
Representatives of research community	65
Representatives of NGO	205
Invited experts	8
Total	457
