First Stakeholder Consultation for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Older persons and development (addressing MIPAA priority issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8)
Thursday, 7 April 2022 (11:00-14:45 UTC+6), Virtual

SUMMARY REPORT

I. Background

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/138 and ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), supported by regional partners, is to convene the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) from 29 June to 1 July 2022.

2. As part of this review and appraisal, ESCAP is organizing stakeholder consultations on the three priority directions of MIPAA: (a) older persons and development; (b) advancing health and well-being into old age; and (c) ensuring enabling and supportive environments. Prevalent and emerging issues – such as the impact of COVID-19, intergenerational solidarity, climate change, digital transformation and the future of work – are to be discussed throughout the consultations. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed.

3. Main findings and recommendations of the consultations will be summarized in an information paper to be submitted to the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of these consultations is to bring a bottom-up participatory approach of the review and appraisal of MIPAA at the regional level and identify challenges and opportunities of population ageing that transcend national boundaries from stakeholder perspectives.

4. This first of the three consultations, held on 7 April 2022 and on older persons and development, addressed the following priority issues of MIPAA:

   1. Active participating in society and development
   2. Work and the ageing labour force
   3. Rural development, migration and urbanization
   4. Access to knowledge, education and training
   5. Intergenerational solidarity
   6. Eradication of poverty
   7. Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention
   8. Emergency situations

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1 General Assembly resolution of 76/138 of 16 December 2021. At N2140160.pdf (un.org)
5. Issue 1: Active participation in society and development
   Involving recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons, as well as ensuring their participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

6. Issue 2: Work and the ageing labour force
   Involving increased awareness of the workplace of the benefits of maintaining an ageing work force and creating decent employment opportunities for all older persons who want to work.

7. Issue 3: Rural development, migration and urbanization
   Involving improvement of living conditions and infrastructure in rural areas and alleviation of the marginalization of older persons in such areas, along with integration of older migrants within their new communities.

8. Issue 4: Access to knowledge, education and training
   Involving equality of opportunity throughout life with respect to continuing education, training and retraining, along with vocational guidance and placement services, and full use of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.

9. Issue 5: Intergenerational solidarity
   Involving strengthening solidarity — in families, communities and nations — through equity and reciprocity between generations at all levels, and hence enhancing social cohesion and formal public welfare and informal care systems.

10. Issue 6: Eradication of poverty
    Involving reduction of poverty among older persons, with close attention to addressing gender inequalities and disparities, and the discrimination and the absence of accommodating workplace needs faced by older persons with disabilities.

11. Issue 7: Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention
    Involving basic social protection/social security — including where applicable, pensions, disability insurance and health benefits — and sufficient minimum income for all older persons, paying particular attention to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

12. Issue 8: Emergency situations
    Involving ensuring equal access by older persons to food, shelter and medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, as well as enhancing their contributions to the rebuilding of communities and the social fabric following emergencies.
II. Objectives, organization and attendance

13. The purpose of the stakeholder consultation was to facilitate and expand collaboration and participation in the regional review and appraisal process, and in particular to elicit stakeholder experiences and views around the review objectives, namely:

- Take stock of the overall progress of implementation of the priority issues to date
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps, and prevalent and emerging issues
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt
- Identify resource requirements and capacity building needs
- Formulate recommendations

14. The consultation consisted of an opening followed by two rounds of two simultaneous working groups and a closing plenary (please see agenda for more details). The working groups addressed all eight priority issues under priority direction 1 of MIPAA on older persons and development, as follows:

15. Working Group 1: Priority issues:

1. Active participating in society and development
4. Intergenerational solidarity/digital development
5. Access to knowledge, education and training
8. Emergency situations

16. Working Group 2: Priority issues:

2. Work and the ageing labour force
3. Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention
6. Rural development, migration and urbanization
7. Eradication of poverty

17. All working groups addressed the following guiding questions with regard to the implementation of MIPAA (focusing on the preceding 5 years) and the specific priority issues:

- What are the main achievements, good practices and lessons learned?
- What are the remaining challenges?
- How have COVID-19, climate change and ICTs impacted the achievement of the priority issues?

18. The consultation was a closed meeting and was not recorded. In order to have open and frank discussions, Chatham House Rules were followed, which meant that participants were free to use the information received but did not reveal the identity or the affiliation of the speaker(s), or of any other participant.

19. This report aims to be a non-exhaustive summary of the key points raised in the consultation, and it is structured around the priority issues of Priority Direction I of MIPAA.
20. This stakeholder consultation was co-designed and implemented by a team of stakeholders and United Nations agencies.³

21. A total of 52 stakeholders from 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific attended the consultation. Participants came from a broad range of sectors including academia, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, local authorities and communities, and the private sector. There was balanced gender representation among participants.

III. Opening

22. Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten, Professor of Social Science and Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Ms. Sri Moertiningsih Adioetomo, Professor of Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia, and Ms. Thuy Anh Ngo, Founder and CEO of HASU provided opening remarks. Mr. Prakash Tyagi, Executive Director, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) moderated the opening session.

23. Mr. Tyagi pointed out that, in recent years, older persons had been impacted by natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes, especially in lower- and middle-income countries. Older persons had often been side-lined in recovery efforts. Ongoing impacts like droughts, food insecurity and poverty posed threats to the well-being and livelihood of older persons. There was a need to better recognize the roles that they could play in global climate action.

24. Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten observed that there had been a continual decline in fertility rates almost worldwide, coupled with increasing life expectancy of older persons. While there had been improvements in educational attainment and access to health care, it had not been universal. Unequitable access to social protection and gender inequality was still rampant. New health challenges, like dementia were also emerging. The COVID-19 pandemic had added to the already significant marginalization and inequality, and climate change would put further pressure on the most vulnerable communities. He mentioned that there was a need to update MIPAA and to refine the priorities and action plan.

25. Ms. Adioetomo pointed out that population growth had not been homogeneous among all Asia-Pacific countries and some middle-income countries were struggling with the process of ageing and human capital development. The challenge was to sustain economic growth, while ensuring social protection for older persons. There was a need to address the increasing dependency ratio. It was important to balance GDP growth in order to support older persons, and governments needed to prepare, including through effective policymaking, in order to ensure income security into old age.

26. Ms. Anh Ngo highlighted that technology had become a useful tool to connect generations. For example, with services enhanced by technology, older persons could better receive food deliveries, or their health activity could be monitored and cared for. There were start-ups that provided health check-up toolkits for older persons via smartphones. The COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated the dispersion of technology and older persons would benefit from this. There were platforms for older persons to communicate online. However, the gap between younger and older persons remained a challenge. Youth learn faster than older persons, and there

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³ The organizing team included Deloitte; Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), India; Yayasan Emong Lansia, Indonesia; HelpAge International; International Federation on Ageing; UNFPA, Asia and the Pacific; ESCAP.
was a need to support older persons in learning, as well as in using technology, while families, the private sector and governments needed to step in to help bridge the learning gap.

IV. Outcomes of the consultation

A. Overall progress in implementation of the eight MIPAA priority issues

26. Participants noted that there had been progress regarding priority issues under older persons and development. In several countries, schemes had been put into place to support older persons. Also highlighted was the importance of providing programmes and opportunities for interaction between older and younger persons. These allowed older persons to take an active and empowering role. Digitalization was essential for the inclusion of older persons. Thus, there was a need to create digital training opportunities and platforms to increase online access for older persons, especially older women, to leverage their wisdom as part of decision-making processes. Many microcredit schemes still need to do more to include females, both young and old.

27. Participants also stressed that it was necessary to create more opportunities for cooperation and develop new projects to combat ageism and change the narrative on older persons and population ageing. There was a need to provide skill trainings for older persons to adapt to new work environments and address discriminatory attitudes towards older persons working in both formal and informal sectors.

28. Addressing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change were identified as an important aspect to enhance the situation of older persons. Many efforts had been put into place to face these challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic had presented challenges to the amelioration of the poverty rate in the region, causing greater stress for many retired older persons with higher loans and mortgages. Many of them were being left out of poverty reduction programmes, especially older women who are unmarried and those living alone in rural areas. Additionally, in the context of emergencies and humanitarian crises, there was a need to explore what it meant for the ageing community to be resilient. Regarding climate change, the agricultural sector and rural areas, where many older persons were working, were heavily impacted. This population group had little voice in agricultural policies. Thus, it was necessary to provide older persons, especially those who remained unskilled, with social protection and to reimagine agricultural practices with sustainability aspects in mind as part of broader climate action.

29. Several good practices were shared among participants, including the extension of the statutory retirement age; creation of employment opportunities for older persons; provision of social protection, including pensions; promotion of lifelong learning; and recognition of the potentially positive role and impact of migration. Many countries in the region had policy measures to extend retirement ages and create employment opportunities for retired persons. Good practices at the local level were also shared. For instance, as rural areas were ageing faster than the national average, Japan had empowered local governments to enact policies that addressed ageing. Evidently, there was a change in social attitudes, as it was becoming more socially acceptable for older persons to work, while there had been an increase in social awareness to support older persons among young people.
B. Priority issue 1: Active participating in society and development

i. Key challenges

30. Participants remarked that there was a need to increase the statutory retirement age, as the ageing population was growing fast, especially for those considered “young old people” (aged 60-69 years). It was critical to actively engage cross-generational support within the community. For example, older persons’ associations were active community-based organizations; however, they often lacked effective intergenerational solidarity.

ii. Good practices

31. In Fiji, several community good practices existed to recognize the intergenerational experiences of the older persons at different levels of society.

32. In Kyrgyzstan, the cooperation between the government and civil society had been strengthened. This cooperation had led to improvements of older persons’ rights, their social protection and related regulations, as well as participation in the decision-making process for and by older persons and civil society organizations that represented older persons. For example, older persons could become members of public councils and the State supported all relevant civil society organizations working on issues relevant to older persons.

33. In Japan, support had been provided in supporting older persons to face challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, while analysis has been carried out on its impact.4

iii. Recommendations

34. There was a need to change mindsets among the younger generation as well as among older persons, including the way they viewed themselves. Older persons need to more actively participate in society, through different ways, including physical exercise in public spaces and increasing awareness of dementia, by working with older persons and care givers support groups. Older persons should live with dignity, with the right of having a life of their own, especially older women, as their needs were not being properly addressed.

35. Older persons with a desire to continue to work should be actively supported to use databases or matching websites run by governments or private companies to search for suitable jobs.

36. There was a need to combat systemic and other barriers, such as ageism, sexism, limited access to transportation, and digital illiteracy through greater intergenerational solidarity, such as youth supporting older persons in developing their ICT literacy.

37. Older persons need to be more empowered, including in the decision-making process. Moreover, women – needed to be in more leadership roles for their increased participation in society.

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4 More information at Analysis Archives - Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (ahwin.org).
C. Priority issue 2: Work and the ageing labour force

i. Key challenges

38. Women who stayed home often faced income insecurity due to their lack of participation in the labour market. Thus, it was important to not leave them behind when designing income security policies. Further, age discrimination in the workplace was prevalent. While the promotion of employment of older persons was written into laws in some countries in the region, firms needed to re-consider retirement ages. In order to reserve employment opportunities for the younger generation, certain governments had not yet extended the retirement age. It was crucial to keep the balance between the employment of youth and older persons, providing opportunities for both generations.

39. Councils of older persons were often not active, and MIPAA was not widely known. In some countries, the retirement age was not necessarily the pensionable age. It was important to develop sustainable pension and finance systems to ensure that older persons received an adequate pension at later stages of their life. For instance, the pandemic had caused the decline of income of large numbers of older persons, and many workers had stopped working and were living on low salaries. Usually those above 65 were not protected by any social protection scheme. There was a need to change perceptions and recognize that older persons were workers too. Moreover, a significant difference was noted between informal and formal sector participation among older persons. The protection of older persons in the informal sector was largely non-existent.

40. While certain governments encouraged informal workers to pay contributions to provident funds when they retired, the percentage of those contributing was still very low.

ii. Good practices

41. An increase in the active participation of older persons in Bangladesh was noted. In addition, with more positive social attitudes toward older persons, there would be less vulnerability among them.

42. Certain participants mentioned increases in retirement ages. For examples, the retirement age in Malaysia had been raised to 60 and Indonesia had established a regulation to extend the retirement age gradually to 65 by the year 2050. For civil servants, Japan was set to raise the retirement age. The Japanese government was also putting re-employment policies in place. In Singapore, retirement age was 62, with the option for re-employment up to age 67 and this would increase gradually to retirement age at 65 and re-employment to age 70 by 2030.

43. In India, the government had provided opportunities to reskill people, especially in the informal sector. Older women that were involved in household activities were also being taught to be more productive. Microcredit facilities had been initiated in some areas by civil society organizations and these were generating positive outcomes. A policy to give credits to older person by agencies for loans had been rolled out. Banks also needed to start offering loans to business at lower interest rates for older persons, and programmes needed to be expanded to reach more people.

44. Singapore had amended legislation to promote labour productivity, including through a centre which promoted older persons to go back to the workforce. There was a support system in place to help in recruitment and other support was extended to older workers. Self-employment
in the gig economy was prevalent. In this regard, there was training for job shifts for people in the health sector, along with help from employers. Volunteerism and ambassadorship were also being implemented, and lifelong learning was being encouraged. The government had launched the Pioneer Generation Package and the Merdeka Generation Package, in which health care and social support schemes were provided.

45. A participant pointed out that in the agricultural sector, there was no retirement age. Relatedly, a national savings fund could encourage people to save at least 10 per cent of income to ensure that they would have savings when they were no longer working.

iii. Recommendations

46. Different approaches needed to be incorporated to resolve existing challenges: older persons needed to be provided with re-employment and reskilling opportunities. As technology development was taking place, older persons needed to gain digital skills. Such skills needed to be translated into jobs. Governments needed to put in place a generational package that included health care, income and social support.

47. In some countries, the retirement age had already been extended to 65, hence there was a need to work with the informal sector to carry out livelihood activities. Governments needed to promote the provision of equitable loans to allow for more effective and inclusive microfinance and bank lending activities.

48. There was a need for anti-discrimination laws based on age. More older persons were taking care of grandchildren rather than grandchildren looking after older family members. Governments needed to advocate more for social pensions as alternative support for older persons, as well as universal social pension systems.

49. Mutual collaboration between governments and employers in the formal sector needed to be encouraged to increase labour force participation among older persons and promote interaction between youth and older persons.

50. There needed to be microcredit schemes allowing older persons in the informal sector to retain employment. In this context, collaboration between the private sector and government needed to be encouraged to expand job opportunities.

51. There was also the need to provide older persons with social protection rights, especially when they were being re-employed after their retirement age. There was also a need to determine what was the minimum income required for older persons to have a basic standard of living. In this context, in Singapore, a study, completed in 2019, produced a report detailing what was the basic standard of living for older Singaporeans.

D. Priority issue 3: Rural development, migration and urbanization

i. Key challenges

52. One of the key challenges highlighted by participants was the migration of young people from rural areas to the cities, leaving older persons behind, yet there was no clear policy framework to protect older persons without family members. The support of younger people was needed, especially in health care, where family members often needed to make decisions on behalf of older family members.
ii. Good practices

53. Participants presented examples of countries addressing the needs of older persons at the municipal level. Local governments in rural areas were also playing a key role in this regard. With 47 prefectures in Japan and the population concentrated in larger cities, it was noted that older persons living in rural areas should not be neglected. At the national level, there were ministries providing national guidelines, but local ministries and agencies had their own set of rules and regulations. Although such regulation structures can generally cater to the needs of individual communities, it was important for communities to step in to help.

54. In Fiji, access to social services was limited in Fiji, since older persons had to travel by boat to health facilities. Therefore, services had been decentralized and to provide support to older persons more effectively. Trainings were taking place on caregiving courses for family members, and nurses were trained to take care of older persons and those with special needs.

55. Bilateral agreements pertaining to labour migration, like the one between Japan and Vietnam, were noted as being important. These labour migrants were often employed in nursing and caregiving and supported the growing number of older persons in Japan.

iii. Recommendations

56. In regard to land shortages, there was a need to change legislation concerning utilization of agricultural land for residential purposes. In big urban areas, land needed to be set aside for older persons, so that they could relocate closer to areas offering specialized services for older persons. It was also important that these new residential areas were age-friendly.

57. More secure job opportunities for people in rural areas needed to be provided to mitigate the drivers of migration. There was also a need to provide more jobs in urban areas, which would allow older persons from the rural areas to join their families in the cities, strengthening intergenerational support. Solutions needed to be more development related and security based.

58. The situation of limited access to quality health facilities in rural areas needed to be adequately addressed.

59. The role of migrant workers in the domestic and care industry could not be neglected. Bilateral agreements needed to be in place between countries for intersectionality of migration, especially for care work needs to be addressed.

E. Priority issue 4: Access to knowledge, education, and training

i. Key challenges

60. One participant stated that access to knowledge was especially important in rural areas, and there was a need to leverage women’s strong networks for community-based activities.

ii. Good practices

61. In Australia, there were self-help organization partnerships, including universities of the third age, which focus on older persons. There multigenerational discussions took place. There were also volunteers within organizations who worked with families and patients across the health system providing care support.
62. In Chiba prefecture, Japan, there was an example of a joint award programme involving a local government, a university and a volunteer group, providing tablets to older persons and having the volunteer group visit older persons provide training and undertake activities at home. For this programme, the private sector was crucial for funding.

63. In Singapore, there was the “National Silver Academy”, which provided funding support to community-based training programmes dedicated to equipping older persons with the necessary knowledge and skills to grow old well in the community.

64. In Cambodia, there was a pilot practice over the preceding 18 months on active education and digital literacy via video and messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp, Zoom and Telegram in rural communities. The importance of the use of messaging platforms in rural communities was emphasized, since it was where older persons may have felt socially isolated.

iii. Recommendations

65. Care training needed to be activity-based, able to be delivered to non-professionals and shared between different countries with adjustments. It was important to consider different contexts when developing curricula and translating them to the local language.

66. There was emphasis that training needed to be intentional and focus on sectors in demand for re-skilling purposes and digitalization needs.

67. The importance of the establishment of third age universities was noted, as the growing middle class would benefit from educational opportunities through knowledge sharing activities and programmes amongst associations of older persons.

68. Training on leadership, governance and management for leaders of older person communities was important. Fundraising, marketing and business planning for income generating activities of such communities was needed.

69. Participants highlighted the importance of bottom-up innovation and learning from the past to overcome challenges. It was also crucial to translate programmes into local languages.

F. Priority issue 5: Intergenerational Solidarity/ digital development

i. Key challenges

70. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICTs had become more important and people had started to work more from home leading to increases in services such as food delivery and home shopping. However, older persons were frequently not enjoying these benefits because of their lack of access to the digital environment and their digital illiteracy.

ii. Good practices

71. One participant shared that in Indonesia, there were many districts and subdistricts which had integrated intergenerational activities, including caring and education provided by younger persons, and where the community met once a month and actively took part.
The work of the International Federation on Ageing and its collaboration with the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities was highlighted, including a webinar series\textsuperscript{5} which provided connection and opportunities for digital development during the COVID-19 pandemic, with support from the government.

\textbf{iii. Recommendations}

The need for advocacy for the promotion of intergenerational solidarity and combatting ageism was emphasized. In this context, one participant highlighted the need to engage older persons with the younger generation by providing activities involving heritage and art. For instance, there was a co-created exhibition that allowed younger persons to re-interpret the history they had discussed with older persons. Moreover, younger persons provided digital training to older persons.

With regard to health and health education, one participant stated that young children suffered from myopia due to the excessive use of digital devices and the lack of parental supervision. In this context, grandparents could play a supervisory role. On the other hand, older persons suffered from presbyopia, so it was important to educate them about the use of glasses.

The importance of the coordination of online services offered by different levels of government was also highlighted. For instance, food delivery was important for older persons to ensure their independence.

\textbf{G. Priority issue 6: Eradication of poverty}

\textbf{i. Key challenges}

As a key challenge, participants highlighted that older persons were largely left behind in poverty eradication programmes. In Bangladesh, for example, the poverty reduction programmes were not sufficient in helping improve the living standard of many older persons.

Poverty had worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Fiji, the poverty rate had increased during the pandemic. Furthermore, employment opportunities for older persons were unavailable, as the retirement age had been reduced to 55 years in order to make it easier for the growing number of young people in Fiji to find work. Most older persons were retiring with fewer savings and higher loans and mortgages to pay. A majority of them had to live with their relatives, but their care demands were not considered a priority due to losses of jobs of family members. The poverty rate in Indonesia was declining, but older women who were unmarried and living alone in rural areas were left behind by poverty reduction policies and programmes.

Health-care costs had increased the financial burden on older persons. Most governments were not aware of effective healthy ageing policy recommendations.

\textbf{ii. Good practices}

In the Philippines, a 2011 law had benefitted 3 million people who had been in poverty. A recently revised bill had raised the social pension from 500 pesos to 1000 pesos per month.

\footnote{More information at \url{IFA/WHO Webinar Series - Age-Friendly World}}
80. In Indonesia, there were successful social programmes under the national theme of poverty reduction.

iii. Recommendations

81. One participant emphasized that there was a need to investigate the factors that pushed older persons below the poverty line. Older persons needed to be provided with education opportunities and subsequent employment, along with better pension options for enhanced living standards. Expenditure on health care had taken a toll on older persons, so there was a need to reduce health-care expenditure and implement universal health-care coverage.

H. Priority issue 7: Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention

i. Key challenges

82. Overall, there was a need to understand what income was required to ensure a basic standard of living in old age.

83. One participant noted that, in Indonesia, there was insufficient budget allocation and only temporary support for older persons. Often, only civil servants and military personnel had pensions and those in the informal sector could not benefit from social pensions. Of the 27 million older persons in the country, the proportion of those receiving pensions was small (10 per cent), meaning that more than 25 million did not receive a pension.

84. Another participant noted that the weakening of the public pension system had caused the poverty rate to increase. The average pension amount was still very small. It was necessary to improve the system for older persons who received basic livelihood security. The public pension system did not guarantee a proper level of income for older persons in poor areas or environments.

85. In Fiji, there was a long process for older persons to apply for social protection schemes. Most of the people in the informal sector had been jobless since reaching the age of 55 and there was a gap of 10 years before they were able to gain access to the pension scheme. Accessibility to pension schemes needed to be addressed.

86. Around 30 per cent of total population of Japan was over 65 years in 2021; this was playing a role in the Japanese government facing a financial crisis. There were difficulties in financing the pension system, and many young persons did not expect the government to pay out pensions to them in the future. There was also an obligation for companies to employ people up to the age of 70 years.

87. In some countries, there was a need to address the gaps between the retirement age and access to pension schemes. Universal health care needed to be in place, as health-care expenditures took a financial toll on older persons. Inclusive pension schemes needed to be in place to reduce poverty among older persons.
ii. Good practices

88. In Singapore, the government had started implementing, in 2021, the Matched Retirement Savings Scheme, targeting older persons who had not met the Basic Retirement Sum to save more for their retirement.

89. Japan had achieved a degree of success in giving out contributory pensions.

90. In Fiji, there was a social protection policy where, upon reaching the age of 65, older persons could apply for the scheme stipulated in the policy.

iii. Recommendations

91. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, or similar surveys and studies, needed to be carried out in countries to better determine the right amount needed for a basic standard of living. Financial literacy was important for older persons to cope with financial crises and insecurity. Knowledge and skills were essential for older persons to diversify their income sources.

92. Income security needed to be enhanced through prudent investments. Education and training were important to prepare younger persons for work and financially secure retirement in old age.

93. Income security did not just apply to older persons but also referred to all other segments of society. In this context, a more well-rounded approach at all government levels needed to be implemented to ensure more effective income security policies and programmes. There was also a need to change the mindset of the entire population, recognizing that all people have the resources to prepare for healthy ageing. Both the government and the population have responsibilities in this regard.

94. Community self-help groups needed to include more older women and make sure that older persons were not isolated.

95. One participant pointed out the need to develop policies that allowed the transportability of pensions internationally.

I. Priority issue 8: Emergency situations

i. Key challenges

96. Border restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic had made it difficult to enter countries. Moreover, the pandemic had exacerbated the vulnerabilities related to the lack of protection faced by informal or migrant workers that supported older persons.

97. Not enough was being done to create specific interventions for older persons, considering their diverse needs, including those related to gender.

98. The resilience of older persons, both at an individual and the community level, was inadequate in the context of effectively knowing how to cope with and overcome emergency situations and humanitarian crises.
ii. Good practices

99. Successful use of information and digital technologies to support older persons’ lives, was noted, especially in countries like Indonesia and Japan, which comprised large numbers of islands. One participant shared that in Indonesia, the government had been focusing more on supporting health tech start-ups than in the past, with a positive impact in terms of greater preparedness and more effective responses with regard to emergency situations.

iii. Recommendations

100. One participant noted that some recent surveys had concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic needed to be seen as an opportunity to further reinforce regional cooperation on migrant labour standards.6

101. Greater emphasis was needed on promoting ICT and digital literacy to make crucial services more widely available, such as tele health care for older persons during lockdowns.

102. There was a need for more attention to the specific nutrition needs experienced in old age when food was distributed during emergencies.

103. Establishment of ageing and disability task forces, with the aim to advocate for inclusive interventions, was required.

104. Better coordination was needed between different levels of governments regarding the provision of services during emergency situations, such as food delivery and care services, especially to those in vulnerable circumstances.

V. Closing and next steps

105. In her closing address, Ms. Eva Sabdono, Executive Director, Yayasan Emong Lansia, noted that everyone, including both the young and older persons, needed to contribute to developing sustainable societies for all ages. Older persons in The Asia Pacific Region have different issues but in the development process, were facing common challenges. During the last review, governments and society had realized the need to adapt social and economic systems to the reality of population ageing. The Indonesian President had signed a Presidential Decree no 88/2021 on the country’s National Strategy on Ageing on 14 September 2021, adopting a life cycle and rights-based approach, in coordination and collaboration with all related stakeholders.

106. Ms. Sabdono hoped that the stakeholder consultation would serve as a good starting point to facilitate and expand collaboration for a productive dialogue in anticipation of the Asia-Pacific MIPAA review and appraisal. Although much progress has been made on the three priority directions, older persons continued to be viewed as a burden of society instead of vibrant active individuals with skills and experience, who were contributing to their communities and national development. A legally binding instrument among nations was needed to ensure that older persons had the right to live with dignity and peace. Governments needed to put in place more effective national policies and programmes that promoted older persons’ participation as active members of society.

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6 More information at Understanding Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets Related to Labour Migration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations During the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic - Database and Programmes : ERIA
107. Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP thanked the moderators, speakers and all other stakeholders for participating in the consultation, including group discussions, as well as ESCAP colleagues for their support in making the consultation a success. For the fourth Asia-Pacific MIPPA review and appraisal followed a bottom-up approach, and it was important to include the voices of stakeholders.

108. The consultation was the first in series of there consultation with stakeholders on the priority directions of MIPAA. The second consultation on health and well-being of older persons would be held on 28 April 2022, and the third consultation on ensuring enabling and supportive environments on 19 May 2022.

109. There were other opportunities for stakeholders to engage in the review and appraisal process, such as by participating in the intergovernmental meeting and making statements, time permitting, participating in roundtable discussions or organizing side events. More information on these different opportunities was forthcoming and would be posted on the meeting’s website at https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-intergovernmental-meeting-fourth-review-and-appraisal-madrid-international

110. Notes would be taken on the conclusion and recommendations of this consultation and the subsequent two consultations. These would be the basis of an information paper that would be submitted to the intergovernmental meeting.
# TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Participants join Zoom meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and opening session</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Prakash Tyagi, Executive Director, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Ageing levels and trends in Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten, Professor of Social Science and Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</td>
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<td>- Social and economic dimension of population ageing in Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Sri Moertiningsih Adioetomo, Professor of Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia</td>
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<td>- Youth respondent: Ms. Thuy Anh Ngo, Founder and CEO of HASU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Participants being allocated to working groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:45</td>
<td><strong>Working groups – Round 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Working group 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Priority issues:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Active participating in society and development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Work and the ageing labour force</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Rural development, migration and urbanization</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Access to knowledge, education and training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Intergenerational solidarity / digital development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6. Eradication of poverty</td>
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<td>7. Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Ms. Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing (IFA)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Working group 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Priority issues:</strong></td>
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<td>2. Work and the ageing labour force</td>
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<td>3. Rural development, migration and urbanization</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Eradication of poverty</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director, HelpAge International, Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45-12:50</td>
<td>Participants allocated to working groups (repeat working groups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50-14:05</td>
<td><strong>Working groups – Round 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Working group 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Priority issues:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director, HelpAge International, Asia and the Pacific</td>
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7 The same clusters of objectives were discussed in round 1 and 2 of the consultation, so that both working groups could cover all eight priority issues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:05-14:40</td>
<td><strong>Highlights, challenges and recommendations from the working groups</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Prakash Tyagi, Executive Director, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)</td>
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<td>• Rapporteur (Priority issues 1, 4, 5, 8) (TBD)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Rapporteur (Priority issues 2, 3, 6, 7) (TBD)</td>
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<td><strong>Q&amp;A</strong></td>
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<td>14:40-14:45</td>
<td><strong>Closing and next steps</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Prakash Tyagi, Executive Director, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)</td>
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<td>• Ms. Eva Sabdono, Executive Director, Yayasan Emong Lansia</td>
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<td>• Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Working group 2**

**Priority issues:**

1. Active participating in society and development
4. Access to knowledge, education and training
5. Intergenerational solidarity / digital development
8. Emergency situations

**Moderator:** Ms. Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PRESENTERS
Ms. Sri Moertiningsih Adioetomo, Professor of Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia
Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten, Professor of Social Science and Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Ms. Thuy Anh Ngo, Founder and CEO, HASU

STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS
Active Ageing Consortium Asia Pacific
Alzheimer’s Indonesia
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Asia Pacific Forum on Families (APFAM International)
Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE)
Council on the Ageing Queensland (COTA)
Dinas Sosial Kota Jambi (Local Government of Jambi City, Indonesia)
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)
Foundation for Older Persons’ Development (FOPDEV)
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)
GrandHeart
Fred Follows Foundation
HelpAge Cambodia
HelpAge India
HelpAge International
HelpAge Korea
HelpAge Sri Lanka
Hong Kong University
International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD)
Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
Mahidol University
National Council for the Senior Citizens Organisation Malaysia (NACSCOM)
National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)
National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF)
Nihon University
Public Charitable Foundation Babushka Adoption
Resource Integration Centre (RIC)
Sir William Beveridge Foundation
SurveyMETER
Tsao Foundation
United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)
University of Indonesia
Yayasan Emong Lansia

UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES

International Labour Organization (ILO)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
World Health Organization (WHO)

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