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

Ensuring enabling and supportive environments
(addressing MIPAA priority issues 1,2,3 and 4)

Thursday, 19 May 2022 (13:00-16:00 UTC+7)
Online (Zoom)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction

In accordance with GA resolution 76/138 and ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), supported by regional partners, is organizing 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.

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 – will be discussed throughout the consultations. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed.

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.

The third stakeholder consultation is on:

**Ensuring enabling and supportive environments**

This consultation addresses the following priority issues of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing:

1. Housing and the living environment
2. Care and support for caregivers
3. Neglect, abuse and violence
4. Images of ageing

As the last of three stakeholder consultations, it will also take a future-oriented outlook and pay particular attention to some of the above-mentioned emerging issues throughout the consultation, namely COVID-19, digital transformation, intergenerational solidarity, and climate change. In addition to the four priority issues under the third priority direction of MIPAA, as one focus of this outlook, the consultation will include a working group on the nexus of climate change, older persons and an aging population. The human rights aspects of population ageing will be addressed in a keynote address.

**Issue 1: Housing and the living environment**
Involving issues of accessibility and safety, emotional security, and financial ability to maintain a home in changing rural and urban contexts and affordable housing, social services and basic infrastructure, as well as trends away from extended and towards nuclear families and isolation.

**Issue 2: Care and support for caregivers**
Linked to informal and unpaid care given by the family and community, as well as professional care and support services, strengthening human resources and social infrastructure and taking into account physical and emotional costs as well as foregone income, especially for women.
Issue 3: Neglect, abuse and violence
Involving risks of physical, psychological, emotional and financial abuse and violence against older persons, and in particular women, and the role of family, community and professionals in counteracting it – including in the context of poverty and lack of access to legal protection.

Issue 4: Images of ageing
Emphasizing a positive view of ageing that recognizes the authority, wisdom and dignity coming from lifelong experiences and an enabling environment for lifelong learning and productivity.

Issue 5: Climate change, older persons and an ageing population
Involving perceptions of older persons not as passive victims of climate change, though they are disproportionately vulnerable, but also as active contributors to addressing its various challenges. Also raising the question of intergenerational solidarity.

2. Objectives of consultation
The purpose of the stakeholder consultation is 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

3. Content and format
The consultation will consist of an opening followed by two rounds of three simultaneous working groups and a closing plenary (please see agenda for more details). Every participant will have the opportunity to join two out of the three working groups. The working groups will address MIPAA priority issues 1, 2, 3 and 4 under priority direction 3 of MIPAA on ensuring enabling and supportive environments, as well as climate change - while also emphasizing a range of cross-cutting issues as follows:

- **Working Group 1: Housing and the living environment**
  Discussing ageing in rural and urban contexts, ageing-in place, care and support by family members, changes in family sizes, intergenerational households and images of ageing (priority issues 1, 2 and 4)
• **Working Group 2: Climate change and older persons**
  Discussing the impacts of climate change on older persons, older persons as contributor to climate change, older persons contributing to climate action and images of ageing (one key emerging trend and priority issue 4)

• **Working Group 3: Neglect, abuse, violence, ageism and images of ageing**
  Discussing the many forms of neglect, abuse, violence and ageism and actions that can be taken to change the narrative on population ageing (i.e., public recognition) (priority issues 3 and 4)

All working groups will address the following guiding questions with regards to the implementation of MIPAA (please focus on the last 5 years and the next 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? What are future projections? What are desirable scenarios and what policies and actions need to be taken to ensure enabling environments for their achievement?

The consultation is a closed meeting and will not be recorded. In order to have open and frank discussions, the Chatham House Rule will be followed, which means that participants are free to use the information received but may not reveal the identity or the affiliation of the speaker(s), or of any other participant.

A summary note of the consultation will be drafted and made publicly available after the consultation. Registration will close on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 at 24:00 hrs. (midnight) (Bangkok time).

4. **Organizing team**

This stakeholder consultation is co-designed and implemented by a team of stakeholders and United Nations agencies.¹

5. **Participants**

Participation in the stakeholder consultations should be balanced with regard to geography/region, gender and area of work/sector (please see stakeholder categories, as identified in Article 17 of MIPAA (see also note on engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholder in the Asia-Pacific

¹ The organizing team includes: Sao Pu Centre on Ageing, The University of Hong Kong - Hong Kong, China; HelpAge International; ITU; UNFPA, Asia and the Pacific; OHCHR; ESCAP.
SociaL Development Division


In the interest of ensuring diverse representation at the consultation, we ask that only one person per organization participates.

Please feel free to forward the invitation to colleagues and partners. Please remember that all participants need to register for the meeting by Tuesday, 17 May 2022 at 24:00 hrs. (midnight) (Bangkok time).

6. Expected outcomes and next steps

To ensure meaningful, inclusive, transparent and diverse participation by stakeholders with respect to reviewing progress towards MIPAA priority direction 3 on ensuring enabling and supportive environments, which entails priority issues 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as discussion of prevalent and emerging issues (such as the impact of COVID-19, intergenerational solidarity, climate change, digital transformation and the future of work), with gender considerations to be mainstreamed.

A summary report drafted by the co-organizers, to be posted on the ESCAP website and to inform the intergovernmental regional review and appraisal meeting.

7. Background

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (MIPAA) was adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002. It put forth a bold new agenda of “building a society for all ages”, which is more relevant today than ever. It focuses on three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring the existence of enabling and supportive environments.

Article 17 of MIPAA recognizes and highlights the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to its implementation, follow-up, review and appraisal:

“Governments have the primary responsibility for providing leadership on ageing matters and on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, but effective collaboration between national and local Governments, international agencies, older persons themselves and their organizations, other parts of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, is essential. The implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, will require the partnership and involvement of many stakeholders: professional organizations, corporations; workers and worker organizations; cooperatives, research, academic and other educational and religious institutions; and the media.”
In 2006, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) issued Guidelines for the review and appraisal of MIPAA at the nation level, using a bottom-up participatory approach. These provide ideas and practical examples to be used by national Governments in carrying out whole-of-government and whole-of-society reviews and appraisals of MIPAA.

MIPAA has been reviewed at the global, regional and national levels three times since its adoption. The fourth regional and global reviews and appraisals are forthcoming in 2022 and 2023 (ECOSOC resolution 2020/8 and GA resolution 76/138). The General Assembly and ECOSOC have regularly followed up on population ageing and provided a strong mandate to the regional commissions “in assisting Governments, at their request, in the implementation, follow-up and national monitoring of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 …” (Article 18 of MIPAA).

Population ageing and the situation of older persons have also been addressed in other United Nations norm-setting documents at the global and regional levels, including the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2013 Asian-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Decade of Healthy Ageing. Most recently, the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda mentioned the urgent need for “intergenerational solidarity”.

8. Background documents

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Additional information is available on the UN ESCAP dedicated website

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