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+7)
Online (Zoom)

CONCEPT NOTE (4 April 2022)

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 will organize 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 first stakeholder consultation is on:

**Older persons and development**

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

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

**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.

**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.

**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.
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, as well as full utilization of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.

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.

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 absence of workplace needs accommodation faced by older persons with disabilities.

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.

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.

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 two simultaneous working groups and a closing plenary (please see agenda for more details). The working groups will address all eight priority issues under priority direction 1 of MIPAA on older persons and development, as follows:

- **Working Group 1**: Priority issues:
  1. Active participating in society and development
  2. Intergenerational solidarity / digital development
  3. Access to knowledge, education and training
  8. Emergency situations

- **Working Group 2**: Priority issues:
  4. Work and the ageing labour force
  5. Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention
  6. Rural development, migration and urbanization
  7. Eradication of poverty

All working groups will address the following guiding questions with regard to the implementation of MIPAA (please focus on the last 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?

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 xxx 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

¹ The organizing team includes: Deloitte; Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), India; Yayasan Emong Lansia, Indonesia; HelpAge International; International Federation on Ageing; UNFPA, Asia and the Pacific; ESCAP.
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 intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing).

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 3 April 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 1 on older persons and development, which entails priority issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, 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