1. Introduction

Sixty per cent of the world’s older population aged 60 or more years reside in Asia and the Pacific. The region has been experiencing rapid population ageing, and the share of the older population is projected to increase further, from 13.6 per cent in 2020 to 25.0 per cent in 2050. This rapid pace means that many countries have little time to adapt to the consequence (implications?) of population ageing.

While population ageing is a success of improved access to health care leading to reduced infant and child mortality and longer life expectancy at birth and at age 60, healthy life expectancy has not increased as much as overall life expectancy. Thus, older persons are likely to spend several years of
their later life with impairments. With their longer life expectancy, women are likely to spend more years than men with impairments.

In ageing societies, non-communicable diseases are rising, being prevalent among a large proportion of older persons. To ensure that people stay healthy for a longer time and can manage chronic diseases, providing access to affordable quality health care with services that meet the needs of older persons, including integrated continuum of long-term care, becomes crucial. Adjusting health systems to ageing societies also requires training of staff in gerontology and providing age-sensitive and people-centred care services. Older women face specific health risks and need that require both a gender- and age-sensitive approach. Past experience shows that investing in the health early over the life course can yield significant returns for individuals and society. Fostering healthy ageing would allow countries to turn potential challenges into opportunities.

The fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action coincides with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which has disproportionately affected older people, especially those with noncommunicable diseases or living in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 has raised public awareness about the need to better support older populations. As such, COVID-19 has not only reinforced the importance of taking early action but has also presented an opportunity for countries to prioritize actions to improve the health and well-being of older people, accelerating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

This round-table discussion will focus on priority direction II, advancing health and wellbeing into old age. The discussion is expected to result in an enhanced understanding of the progress, good practices, challenges, and emerging issues associated with the implementation of this priority direction of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing and other related commitments under the 2030 Agenda. It will specifically discuss universal access to health care, long-term care, health promotion across the life course, specific actions to meet the diverse health care needs and preferences of older persons, and ways to develop health and care systems and services that are affordable and accessible to all.

2. Objectives
The roundtable will explore achievements, challenges and opportunities in implementing actions associated with priority direction II of the Madrid Plan of Action, namely:

The roundtable addresses the following cluster of issue:
Issue 1: Health promotion and well-being throughout life
Issue 2: Universal and equal access to health-care services
Issue 3: Older persons and HIV/AIDS
Issue 4: Training of care providers and health professionals
Issue 5: Mental health needs of older persons
Issue 6: Older persons and disabilities
In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and digital transformation and their impacts on older persons will be addressed. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed.

Since this is the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in Asia and the Pacific, the focus is on accelerating its implementation in the region and address emerging issues.

Panelists in this round-table discussion will:
- Take stock of the overall progress of implementation of Madrid Plan of Action to date in the area of health and well-being (Priority Direction II)
- 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 round-table discussion will consist of short opening statements by panelists, followed by a moderated discussion among panelists, Q&A with meeting participants and concluding remarks by the panelists. The following guiding questions will be addressed:

1. Twenty years after adopting the Madrid Plan of Action, where are we in terms of health and well-being of older person? Have we made progress on universal health care, long-term care and mental health?
2. What are the priorities for advancing health and wellbeing in our region?
3. How have COVID-19, climate change and ICTs impacted older persons’ health and the health and care services that serve older persons?
4. How do we move forward to improve the health and well-being of older people and how can we create environments in which communities and older persons are empowered to take greater control of their own health?
5. How can we foster cross-sectoral/multi-sectoral collaboration on health?
4. **Agenda**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30-10:35</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks, moderator</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35-10:55</td>
<td>First round of questions, panelists</td>
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<td>10:55-11:15</td>
<td>Second round of questions, panelists</td>
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<td>11:15-11:45</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-11:55</td>
<td>Concluding remarks, panelists</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:55-12:00</td>
<td>Closing remarks, moderator</td>
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5. **Expected outcome**

The round-table discussion will allow meeting participants during the Q&A to respond to any issues raised during the discussion as they relate to priority direction II of the Madrid Plan of Action. The recording of the round-table discussion will be posted on the meeting website. A summary of the round-table discussion will be included in the Chair’s summary of the meeting.

6. **Organizing team**

The roundtable is being organized by ESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA, Asian Development Bank.

7. **Background**

The [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002](https://www.unescap.org/mipaa) (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

Additional information is available on the UN ESCAP dedicated website

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