Round table 3: Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

CONCEPT NOTE
(as of 1 June 2022)

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 address the consequences of population ageing.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure that older persons are not being left behind, supportive environments that protect the rights of older persons have to be
strengthened. Such supportive environments include age-friendly housing and living environments provide accessible care and support to caregivers, including family caregivers. Supportive environments also include a legal framework that promotes the rights of older persons and has provisions against abuse and neglect of older persons. Moreover, the narrative has to be shifted from considering older persons as a burden to highlighting population ageing as a success to development and recognizing older persons as development actors.

Ensuring the rights of older persons also includes that they have access to quality care when needed. Unpaid care provided by family members is still the main form of care to older persons in the Asia-Pacific region and in many cases the preferred form of care by older persons. Family caregivers also need support to be able to provide quality care, and intergenerational solidarity will be important in this regard.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the rights of older persons in many ways. Lockdown measures often led to limited access to healthcare for older persons, exposed them to increased risk of abuse and neglect and increased their loneliness.

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.

This roundtable discussion will focus on priority direction III, ensuring enabling and supportive environments. 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 the rights of older persons, addressing ageism, and supporting family caregivers.

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

<table>
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<th>The roundtable addresses the following cluster of issue:</th>
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<td>Issue 1: Housing and the living environment</td>
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<td>Issue 2: Care and support for caregivers</td>
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<td>Issue 3: Neglect, abuse and violence</td>
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<td>Issue 4: Images of ageing</td>
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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 progress of implementation of priority direction III to date
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps, and prevalent and emerging issues
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt
- 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, have we created more enabling and supportive environments for older persons?
2. Are there any good practices and lessons learned in creating enabling and supporting environments? For example, are there good practices from age-friendly communities, caregiver support groups or those that foster intergenerational relations?
3. How can member States and stakeholders ensure the rights of older persons? How can we ensure that in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action, human rights aspects are brought to the fore?
4. How do the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other emerging issues affect the rights of older persons and the creation of enabling and supportive environments?
4. **Agenda**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-14:05</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks, moderator</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:05-14:25</td>
<td>First round of questions, panelists</td>
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<td>14:25-14:45</td>
<td>Second round of questions, panelists</td>
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<td>14:45-15:15</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>15:15-15:25</td>
<td>Concluding remarks, panelists</td>
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<td>15:25-15:30</td>
<td>Closing remarks, moderator</td>
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5. **Expected outcome**

The panel discussion is intended to set the stage for the ensuring general debate. The recording of the panel discussion will be posted on the meeting website. A summary of the roundtable 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, OHCHR, ADB and HelpAge International.

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

Additional information is available on the UN ESCAP dedicated website

9. Contact information
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