CONCEPT NOTE
(as of 23 May 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 the consequence of population ageing.

The Madrid International Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002 emphasized a development approach to ageing and called for “building
To this day, the Madrid Plan of Action remains the main international policy instrument on ageing. Governments, supported by relevant stakeholders, are primarily responsible for its implementation. Participatory reviews and appraisals at national, regional and global levels complement its implementation, and these reviews are supported by United Nations regional commissions in collaboration with other United Nations systems organizations and relevant stakeholders.


There are strong synergies between the Madrid Plan of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Older persons are both beneficiaries and actors in sustainable development. While there is progress in the development policies, their implementation sometimes lags behind. Data and information are crucial to monitor and measure progress in implementation.

Twenty years after adopting the Madrid Plan of Action, the round-table will discuss how one can accelerate its implementation and take it into the future. It will highlight good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action and how governments in collaboration with stakeholders can advance its implementation at national, subregional and regional levels. It will discuss what data and information will be required to inform evidence-based policymaking, identify capacity-building needs and what is needed to mainstream the topic of population ageing into policy frameworks. The roundtable will also identify synergies between other guiding documents at the global, regional and subregional levels that complement MIPAA with regard to sustainable development, health and rights of older persons and that should be considered when mainstreaming population ageing.

2. 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, how can we accelerate its implementation? Are there lessons learned or good practices at the national, subregional or regional levels to advance the Madrid Plan of Action?
2. Has data availability on older persons improved, and are there any remaining gaps in data and capacity-building? What do we need to do to overcome these gaps?

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3. What role do stakeholders, UN systems organizations as well as other regional and subregional organizations play in supporting implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and its follow up? What partnerships are needed and what capacity-building needs remain?

4. Looking beyond the fourth review and appraisal, how can we take the Madrid International Plan into the future and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead, for example, with regard to health, human rights and sustainable development?

3. **Agenda**

| 15:30-15:35 | Welcome and opening remarks, moderator |
| 15:35-15:55 | First round of questions, panelists |
| 15:55-16:15 | Second round of questions, panelists |
| 16:15-16:45 | Q&A |
| 16:45-16:55 | Concluding remarks, panelists |
| 16:55-17:00 | Closing remarks, moderator |

4. **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 I 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.

5. **Organizing team**
The roundtable is being organized by ESCAP, supported by HelpAge International.

6. **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”.

7. **Background documents**
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Additional information is available on the UN ESCAP dedicated website

8. **Contact information**
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