

First informal consultation of ESCAP member States on the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: process, survey, data and policies

6 and 7 May 2021, Bangkok, Thailand
(Virtual meeting)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is ageing rapidly. The percentage of people aged 60 years or over will increase from 13.6 per cent in 2020 to 24.9 per cent in 2050.

These demographic shifts present challenges and opportunities that require forward-looking policies to ensure inclusive and active ageing. In 2002, United Nations Member States adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), the global action plan to “build societies for all ages”. The MIPAA complements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing detailed policy actions to ensure that older persons are not left behind. Policies must address all three pillars of the MIPAA and emerging issues, such as technological advances and the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and COVID-19. Population ageing has a strong gender dimension. While men and women share certain common basic needs as they age, ageing related policies should give special attention to older women in vulnerable situations. Several countries in the Asia-Pacific region have already designed policies on population ageing, but the policies differ in scope, effectiveness, and implementation.

Since adoption of the MIPAA in 2002, there have been three regional and global reviews and appraisals. In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2020/8 and General Assembly resolution 75/152, United Nations Member States have mandated regional commissions to conduct the Fourth Regional Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA and to nominate focal points. ESCAP will organize the Fourth Review and Appraisal in Asia and the Pacific, with support from other United Nations entities in the region in 2022, with preparatory processes being undertaken through 2021. The review process will consist of a (a) member State survey; (b) stakeholder consultations; (c) drafting of research papers/expert group meetings; and (d) intergovernmental meeting.

Date of the meeting

The meeting is scheduled to take place from 6 to 7 May 2021, 11:00 am to 14:00 pm (15:00 pm on the second day), Bangkok time. The meeting will be held in connection with the expert group meeting on Technology for Active Ageing, organized by the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia of ESCAP, which will be held on 6 May 2021. Participants will be encouraged to participate in both events. A separate invitation to this expert group meeting will be issued by the Subregional Office.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- a) Provide an overview of population ageing trends in Asia and the Pacific and review plans for the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;
- b) Discuss the proposed survey on implementation of the MIPAA in Asia and the Pacific and provide input as required; and
- c) Review data needs, availability of statistical indicators and key elements of ageing policies.

Expected outcomes

It is expected that after the meeting, country focal points, and partners will have:

- a) Increased understanding of population ageing trends in Asia and the Pacific and the process of the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA;
- b) Provided input to the proposed member State survey to assess actions taken to accelerate implementation of the MIPAA;
- c) Increased understanding of data needs and available data to support the monitoring of the implementation of the MIPAA; and
- d) Increased understanding of key elements of ageing policies based on a review of such policies in Asia and the Pacific.

Participants

Participants will consist of ageing focal points nominated by ESCAP member States as well representatives of civil society, the private sector, academia/research institutions and United Nations entities.

Modality of the meeting

The two-day meeting will be conducted virtually with plenary and working group discussions. A technical information note on the modality of the meeting, including dial-in details, will be provided closer to the meeting date.

Documents prepared for the meeting (will be shared closer to the meeting day)

- Draft MIPAA survey for Asia and the Pacific
- Paper on ageing indicators
- Paper on key elements of ageing policies