Session 2: Overview of meeting deliberations and outcome document: summary and next steps

4-5 August 2022, virtual

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Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
Bangkok and online, 29 June–1 July 2022


1. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

   1. The following decision is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision

   The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing decides to transmit the outcome document, the report on the Meeting and all pre-session documents to the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session, to be held in 2023, as a regional input to the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Annex II

Account of proceedings

Opening of the Meeting (agenda item 1)

1. The participants in the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing elected Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi, Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives, as the Chair. The Executive Secretary delivered opening remarks in a video statement. Video messages from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons were also played. Ms. Eva Anne Sabdons, Vayasan Emong Lannia, delivered a statement.

Review of progress and challenges in accelerating the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in Asia and the Pacific (agenda item 2)

2. The participants in the Meeting had before them two notes by the secretariat, entitled “Overview of levels and trends in population ageing, including emerging issues, and their impact on sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/1) and “Population ageing, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: synergies, indicators and data” (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/2). They also had before them two information documents, entitled “Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/1).
Sessions with deliberations:

1. High-level panel discussion on progress and challenge in accelerating the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

2. Country statements

3. Thematic roundtable discussions:
   (a) Older persons and development
   (b) Advancing health and well-being into old age
   (c) Ensuring enabling and supporting environments
   (d) Implementation and follow up
High level discussion: accelerating implementation of MIPAA main points

Challenges:
- Persistent socio-economic inequalities
- Gender gaps, particularly in access to social protection systems
- Older persons and informal sector work
- Changing patterns of disease

Emerging points to consider:
- Mainstreaming ageing in all areas of health policies
- Promote social innovations
- Rethink existing concepts of “age” and “old”
Roundtable discussion: older persons and development

Key messages:

• Older persons are working longer and harder than in the past
• Older persons in rural areas are mainly engaged in manual labour, are less educated and have less access to social protection
• Older women are disadvantaged because of disadvantages throughout the life-course

Proposed actions:

• Realize the potential of older persons to economies and societies by removing barriers to participation
• Provide effective social protection
• Analyze the contribution of older persons, e.g. through National Transfer Accounts (NTAs)
• Take a life-cycle approach and invest in health and education
Roundtable discussion: Advancing health and well-being into old age

Key messages

• Population ageing brings opportunities for growth in the health and care sector
• ICTs play an increasing role in health care, also for older persons
• Older persons in rural area remain underserved with health services
• Mental health of older persons is a key concern, especially because of the pandemic
• COVID-19 pandemic further created imbalances, including unequal access to vaccines

Proposed actions

• Universal access to health care
• Provide a continuum of care from prevention to long-term care
• Promote digital literacy among older persons to be able to better benefit from digital health care
• Promote greater collaboration between Governments, private sector and civil society in to provide equal access to health care
• Adopt a whole-of-society approach
Roundtable discussion: Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

Key messages

• Strengthening community-based organizations of older persons improved the situation of older persons
• Digital technologies can be vital for older persons
• Rolling out age-friendly environments and initiatives to address dementia is crucial
• Universal design supports society as a whole

Proposed actions

• Promote a convention on the rights of older persons
• Raise awareness on the rights of older persons
• Promote life-long learning opportunities
• Raise awareness on the need for universal design including in curricula
• Provide digital services that specifically address the needs of older persons
• Multi-sector collaboration for the benefit of older persons
Roundtable discussion: Implementation and follow up

Key message:
• Higher awareness of MIPAA because countries are more advanced in ageing
• Older persons themselves are different now: higher education, better health status
• Rapid population ageing at the same time as technological progress and climate change
• Increased demand for long-term care, increased sensitivity for gender concerns
• Resource constraints

Proposed actions
• Greater political commitment on the rights of older persons
• Mainstream and harmonize ageing in the context of all policies
• Promote innovative ideas, life-long learning, skills development and positive views of older persons
• Provide support to caregivers
• Promote South-South cooperation on ageing
• Give due consideration to gender and disability concerns in implementing programmes on ageing
• Enhance data collection
Deliberations by member States

Key messages
• Commitment to the Madrid Plan of Action reiterated
• Action plans and monitoring frameworks are important to successful implementation
• Contributions of older persons to economies and societies recognized
• Provision of long-term care as a key challenge
• Social isolation of older persons an emerging concern

Proposed actions
• Include older persons in the design of national policies on ageing
• Work towards universal access to healthcare
• Enhance access to technology by older persons
• Provide income security to older persons
• Strengthen long-term care systems and provide support to caregivers
• Provide life-long learning opportunities
• Enhance collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics
Deliberations by civil society (in addition to summaries by stakeholder consultations)

Key messages

• Quality long-term care is important to support healthy ageing
• Older persons and their associations make important contributions to economies and societies
• COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing social inequalities

Proposed actions

• Enhance efforts to reduce disparities among older persons
• Support policies on healthy ageing that help prevent disability in old age
• Involve organizations of older persons in policy-making
• Provide better working conditions for caregivers
• Strengthen access to pensions and ensure adequate levels of pensions
• Enhance data collection efforts
• Mainstream and human rights-based approach
Thank You!

For any questions, please contact escap-sdd@un.org