Session 4: Recap of first day

Natalja Wehmer
Sustainable Demographic Transition Section
Social Development Division
ESCAP

Expert Group Meeting - Population Ageing and the Situation of Older Persons in Asia and the Pacific: Follow-up to the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

4-5 August 2022
4 August: 09:00 to 12:00, noon, Bangkok time (GMT+7)
5 August: 13:00 to 16:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7)
Online [by invitation only]
MIPAA priorities & challenges

**Priority Direction 1: Older persons & development:**
- More opportunities for **active participation** in society & development – but big variations
- Many (esp. **women** & rural) **lack access** to knowledge, **education** & training, incl. **digital** literacy
- Most governments support **income generation** – but mostly **informal, age discrimination** with few laws against it;
- **Pension** coverage low; **old-age poverty** persists & worse due to **COVID-19**; some progress in financial & other support esp. where **social protection** lacking

**Priority Direction 2: Advancing health & well-being into old age:**
- Health promotion & well-being **throughout life** - some progress on **UHC** but big variation, lack **gender**-responsiveness & **long-term care**
- Need better **training care providers** & health professionals
- Ageing-related disability & **mental health** services limited
MIPAA priorities & challenges (cont.)

**Priority Direction 3: ensuring enabling & supportive environment:**
- Uneven provision **affordable housing**, public **infrastructure & transport**; acknowledge older persons in **DRR & climate change**
- Lack quality & availability of **care & support for caregivers**; **family** caregivers key but **few paid**
- Neglect, abuse & violence - **ageism on the rise** – misconceptions & stereotypes

**Cross-cutting:**
- **Insufficient data** on population ageing & interlinked impacts on older persons & society
- **Human resources** challenge
- **Implementation gaps** – increased with COVID-19
IGM deliberations: key additional points considered

- Higher awareness of MIPAA because **countries are more advanced in ageing**
- **Older persons** themselves are **different now: higher education, better health status**
- Older persons are **working longer & harder** than in the past
- Older persons in **rural areas** mainly engaged in **manual labour, less educated** & have less access to **social protection**
- **Older women disadvantaged** because of disadvantages throughout **life-course**
- **Social isolation** of older persons an emerging concern
Outcome document: emerging priorities/ language

- **Policy approaches** (synergize key development agendas; mainstream ageing; human-rights based; people-centered; life course perspective; older persons as agents of change; perspectives of older women)
- **Health** (pandemics; caregivers in private sector & unpaid care by women; mental health; long-term care; geriatric & gerontological skills)
- **Work** (age-friendly conditions, combat ageism in workforce)
- **Emergencies** (inclusive emergency plans & responses, positive role in climate change)
- **Social protection** (sustainable & social pension schemes)
- **Persons with disabilities** (mainstream disability, eradicate poverty, esp. older PwDs)
- **Supportive environments** (adequate, intergenerational housing; community services)
- **Technology** (ensure benefits older persons, esp. women & PwDs; right to privacy)
- **Data** (promote intergenerational research, national accounts to inform policy)
- **Discrimination, neglect, violence...** (protect victims, advance positive public image)
Objective & content of dashboard

- Highlights ageing **policies & good practices linked to MIPAA**
- Includes map where users can go to individual countries to see policies.
- Has ‘heat map’ to show existence of policies
- **Information provided by member states** – surveys, government websites, reviews by country experts

Next steps
- Looking for feedback from country focal points
- Looking for more good practices from governments, CBOs, OPAs
- Will refine technically
- Plan for experts to test it & provide feedback
Recommendations to strengthen MIPAA implementation

➢ Consider how to **keep momentum** - as MIPAA comprehensive & generic – **inclusion of older persons**/ consider them as resource

➢ **Priority setting** crucial – to ensure sufficient **time & financial resources** (include cost-benefit analysis)

➢ **Whole-of-society & life-cycle approach** - meaningfully involve diverse stakeholders & start well before retirement (“sandwich generation”)

➢ **Mainstreaming ageing** issues into all policies as well as work of practitioners while recognising **heterogeneity of older people** & diversity of issues

➢ Need **older-persons & human-rights focused, gender-responsive** approaches
Recommendations to strengthen MIPAA implementation

- **Responsiveness** key – as context dynamic (disasters, transformations)
- Need to **demonstrate feasibility of universal approach in healthcare & income security**, viewing it as an investment for future generations
- To overcome **gap between intention & reality** in policy-making, important to engage, reach out & increase awareness-raising
- Focus on **community & local / municipal levels** – but ensure sufficient **financial resources & technical expertise** to translate policy into tangible action
- Provide a **continuum of care from prevention to long-term care**
Recommendations to strengthen MIPAA implementation

➢ Important to scale up the knowledge about **good practices & sharing of lessons learned** (incl. less successful experiences to avoid mistakes)

➢ **Expand advocacy & action** to CBOs/NGOs dealing with related issues (include disability, poverty reduction, gender, community-based climate resilience etc.)

➢ Use National Transfer Accounts (**NTAs**) as a tool

➢ Raise awareness on the **need for universal design** as supports society as a whole

➢ Provide **digital services that specifically address the needs of older persons**

➢ Rolling out **age-friendly environments** & initiatives to **address dementia**


Day 1: all sessions (cont.)
Thank you!

https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/expert-group-meeting-population-ageing-and-situation-older-persons-asia-and-pacific

Contact: escap-sdd@un.org