



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

**The 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**

6-7 May 2021

Online Meeting (*All times Indochina time zone: GMT +7*)

**REPORT
OF THE 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 2021 ¹**

¹ This report has been issued on 16 July 2021 without formal editing/formatting.

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I. ORGANIZATION

A. Background

1. The Asia-Pacific region is ageing rapidly. The percentage of people aged 60 years or over will increase from 429 million in 2020, or 13.6 per cent of the total population to 1.3 billion in 2050 or 24.9 per cent in 2050.²

2. 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”. 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.

3. Since the adoption of 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 MIPAA in 2022. They have also asked that national ageing focal points be nominated. 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 the preparatory process having started in 2021. The review process will consist of a (a) nomination of ageing focal points; (b) member State survey; (c) stakeholder consultations; (d) drafting of research papers/convening of expert group meetings; and (e) intergovernmental meeting.

B. Objective of the Meeting

4. 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;

5. Discuss the proposed survey on MIPAA implementation I in Asia and the Pacific and provide input as required; and

6. Review data needs, availability of statistical indicators and key elements of ageing policies.

C. Attendance

7. The Meeting was attended by ageing focal points of 17 countries from Asia and the Pacific, representatives of the Asian Development Bank, HelpAge International, the Tsao Foundation and 8 United Nations entities, as well as representatives from Mahidol University in Thailand and Renmin University in China.

²United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2020). ESCAP Population Data Sheet 2020.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

Thursday, 6 May 2021

A. Opening and introduction

8. The informal consultation was opened by Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division of ESCAP. In his remarks he stressed that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) remained the guiding document on population ageing. Since the last review in 2017, new challenges had emerged. The COVID-19 pandemic had further deepened existing inequalities. Over the past 20 years, many countries in the region had experienced population ageing at rapid speeds. The number and the proportion of older persons in Asia and the Pacific was at an all-time high and increasing. Given the scope, scale and impact of population ageing in countries in the region, it was time to move from declarations to concrete actions. By engaging with national ageing focal points early in the process, ESCAP was attempting to provide support to member States for their national reviews from the beginning. Holding the first consultation a year prior to the intergovernmental meeting also provided an opportunity for all member States to start compiling good practices and lessons learned which could serve as the basis for action-oriented outcomes of the fourth review and appraisal.

9. Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division of ESCAP provided an overview of the consultation. In the Madrid Action Plan, member States had recognized that Governments had the primary responsibility for implementing the broad recommendations of MIPAA. They had also noted that the implementation of MIPAA was a dynamic process and should be supported by the involvement of relevant stakeholders. Implementation should be undertaken in conjunction with regular reviews and appraisals, noting that sharing of the outcomes of regular reviews among member States would be valuable to all. Through the respective General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions, Member States had requested the regional commissions to facilitate, organize and support them in national reviews. The present consultation intended to provide an overview of population ageing trends in the region, discuss some key concepts in the field of population ageing, and present the plans for the fourth review and appraisal in Asia and the Pacific, including the draft MIPAA survey. At the end of the meeting, participants would be asked to identify any capacity-building needs for conducting national reviews.

10. After her presentation, Ms. Henning invited all representatives of ESCAP member States to introduce themselves.

B. Session 1: Setting the Stage: Population ageing, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and Decade of Healthy Ageing

11. The session was moderated by Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division of ESCAP.

12. Presentations were made by Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division of ESCAP; Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer, Population Affairs Officer, Social Development Division of ESCAP; Mr. Rintaro Mori, Regional Adviser (Population Ageing and Sustainable Development) United Nations Population Fund Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok; Dr. Neena Raina, Senior Advisor, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing (MCA), World Health Organization, Regional Office for South East Asia and Dr. Hiromasa Okayasu Coordinator, World Health

Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific; Dr. AB Dey, Consultant Healthy Ageing, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health; and Mr. Rio Hada, Team Leader, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR.

13. Ms. Henning highlighted how the MIPAA had been developed and explained its linkages to other action plans and its relevance in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Adopted in 2002, MIPAA constituted the key global policy document concerned with population ageing. It proposed policy actions to ensure the well-being and active participation of older persons at all levels. According to General Assembly resolution 75/152, the follow-up and review of MIPAA was intended to contribute to regional cooperation on population ageing. According to ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, the global review and appraisal of MIPAA would take place in 2023. She also highlighted that the main responsibility of implementing MIPAA lay with Governments, which in turn were highly encouraged to work with stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations. She explained that to date, three global and regional reviews and appraisals of the Plan of Action had taken place. Member States had recommended building capacities, providing support to countries in creating forward-looking policies and monitoring frameworks and supporting them in MIPAA implementation. The draft survey for the fourth regional review and appraisal had been prepared in a way to be sensitive to the reporting burden of member States and use synergies with reporting to other mechanisms, i.e. the 2030 Agenda.

14. Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer presented an overview of population ageing levels and trends in the Asia-Pacific region. With 630 million persons aged 60 years or over in the region, the age structures in the region had shifted greatly over time. Countries in Asia and the Pacific were projected to age at a faster pace than did countries in Europe or North America, which was a result of rapid fertility decline, followed by declines in mortality and rising life expectancy at birth, particularly since the 1960s. Resulting from their higher life expectancy, there were more older women than men in the region, especially in the age group of 80 years or over. While population ageing was a major achievement of development, it presented numerous challenges, such as rising health care costs and the need to ensure income security for older persons in an environment with low coverage of pensions. Many older persons were actively participating in the labour force, but women were underrepresented in the labour force. She identified the following major challenges: lack of social protection for older persons, particularly women; lack of affordable access to health care services; changing living and care arrangements with reductions in family size and many younger people moving to cities and leaving older parents in rural areas; lack of access to social services in rural areas; lack of access to ICTs for older persons and the future of work in ageing societies. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change had affected the overall wellbeing of older persons.

15. Mr. Rintaro Mori made a presentation on the “Life cycle approach: population ageing and low fertility”. He reflected on the definition of ageing, pointing out that people lived healthy lives for a longer time, which also changed the traditional model of work and retirement phases. He explained that policies on population ageing as a whole should not only target older persons, but take a life cycle approach and include policies on social protection regardless of age, policies that addressed gender issues and policies that promoted healthy ageing etc. The life phases had changed over time. While in earlier times there had been phases of “young and old” or “education, work, retirement”, in the future, the phase after the childhood could be a long phase with a life-long flexible choice of education, childbearing, work, and care. He also pointed at increasing health challenges over the life cycle that were widened the gap between healthy life expectancy and life expectancy at birth. This gap was even larger for women than for men. The life cycle approach to ageing had a strong gender dimension and building resilience and investing

in preventive healthcare services was particularly important for women, given their longer life expectancy.

16. Dr. Hiromasa Okayasu, Dr. Neena Raina, and Dr. AB Dey, all of WHO, gave a presentation on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, and their respective activities in East Asia and the Pacific and South and South-East Asia. The presenters pointed out that the Decade had been developed through multi-stakeholder consultations, including Governments, academia, private sector, civil society, international organizations, the media and others, and its implementation required continued collaboration with stakeholders. The Decade defined four action areas: change how societies think, feel, and act towards age and ageing; ensure that communities foster the abilities of older people; deliver person-centred integrated care and primary health services responsive to older people and provide access to long-term care for older people who need it. In 2021, WHO, in collaboration with DESA, OHCHR and UNFPA had released the first Global Report on Ageism which identified key strategies for combatting ageism. WHO also supported the global network of cities and communities working to become more age-friendly, and the organization had issued guidelines for long-term care of older persons. A new data and information portal would provide further information on healthy ageing. In the Western Pacific region, WHO had developed a Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing, and a Framework on Healthy Ageing was also developed for the South-East Asia region. The presenters encouraged member States to provide political support to the Decade by supporting Health Ministers in adopting a supportive resolution in the next meetings of the regional governing bodies of WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific.

17. Mr. Rio Hada made a presentation on ageism based on the Global Report on Ageism, co-authored by DESA, OHCHR, UNFPA and WHO. The report provided an overview of definitions, the impact of ageism on older persons and its determinants, as well as policy recommendations. Ageism referred to stereotypes and prejudice, which often led to discrimination of certain age groups. Ageism was harmful for economies and societies because it affected individuals' health and left people behind based on their age. Ageism further intersected and exacerbated other forms of disadvantage including those related to sex, race, and disability. Ageism could be addressed through (1) policy and law, (2) educational activities, and (3) intergenerational interventions. An example of policy and law was MIPAA itself, since Article 5 of the Madrid Action Plan was about eliminating all forms of discrimination based on age and thus, if implemented, formed an example of laws and legislation against ageism. The MIPAA review provided an opportunity to report progress and share experiences in tackling ageism. Educational interventions were considered among the most effective strategies for reducing ageism. They included activities that informed people about ageism as well as activities to enhance empathy through role-playing, simulation, and virtual reality. Intergenerational interventions aimed at fostering interaction between different generations. Examples of good practice from countries in the region to fight ageism were also presented. Mr. Hada recommended investing in evidence-based strategies to address ageism, with a focus on improving data and research to gain a better understanding of ageism and how to reduce it as well as building a movement to change the narrative around age and ageing.

C. Session 2: Data and information on population ageing

18. The session was moderated by Mr. Markus Ruck, Specialist on Social Protection, Decent Work Technical Support Team, ILO Decent Work Technical Advisory Team for South Asia for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok. He invited Ms. Jessica Gardner, Statistical Consultant, to provide an overview on statistical indicators that had been identified as possible indicators to measure progress in implementation of MIPAA in the Asia-Pacific region.

19. Ms. Gardner presented statistical indicators relevant to ageing and age-disaggregated data in Asia and the Pacific, highlighting the increasing demand for data on ageing to serve for national planning and policymaking, as well as for monitoring the regional and international commitments including those contained in MIPAA, the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Healthy Ageing. The indicators had been compiled in a working paper which had been circulated to participations prior to the meeting. She identified significant data gaps related to the collection of data on population ageing. Many SDGs and their related targets were directly or indirectly addressing concerns related to population ageing. The gaps and challenges on statistics on older persons resulted from the following: (1) lack of prioritization of older persons' concerns by policymakers, (2) exclusion of older persons from regular data collection through household surveys, (3) infrequent and irregular data collection on the situation of older persons through dedicated surveys on ageing, and (4) lack of statistical systems, capacity development, and guidance to analyze or improve statistics on ageing.

20. Ms. Gardner proposed a set of statistical indicators based on SDG indicators and developed in line with MIPAA priority actions, as a starting point for discussion and further development. She pointed out that many indicators were still aspirational, and data had not been collected for all of them. She stressed the need for countries to make continued efforts to fill the data gaps, build on the momentum from various regional and international data initiatives such as those related to the Titchfield City Group, the SDGs, or data collection efforts on gender concerns, and to invest more in collection, dissemination, and communication of statistics.

21. In the subsequent discussion, country focal points welcomed the set of indicators and stated that the review and data collection initiative were timely. They informed about existing initiatives in their countries to collect data for the MIPAA review, raising some of the challenges as discussed earlier. Some progress had been made in the region in collecting and compiling data on ageing and older persons, for example, through the inclusion of specific questions related to older persons in national surveys, capturing people's health status and their participation in the community and society, etc. Such data and information from surveys would allow policymakers to develop evidence-based policies on older persons. Some national focal points noted that lack of funding had impacted data collection efforts and capacity-building on data and statistics.

22. The need to define indicators for routine data recording and reporting was underlined. Such indicators should be included in international surveys such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) or any other population-based surveys. The need for more in-depth data collection on ageing, especially gender- and age-disaggregated data and data from all sectors including health was further emphasized. To this end, it was suggested that different United Nations entities work together to establish a simple monitoring framework and tool on ageing with a clear definition of indicators that helped countries trace progress made in addressing population ageing and older persons' issues.

23. The focal point of Kyrgyzstan informed that a plan of action on ageing had been developed to improve the life and welfare of older persons. As part of the action plan, data had been collected and research on ageing had been conducted in different regions of the country. It was noted that the life expectancy of older persons had been steadily increasing, and women lived longer than men. However, the increasing levels of emigration of the younger population had increased the burden on older persons who provided unpaid care for small children or lived alone with less support.

24. The focal point of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that the Government had worked with UNFPA for the last review of the MIPAA, expressing satisfaction with this collaboration. He

also pointed out that the census had usually been conducted every 5 years, but population change was so fast that population projections had been used for policymaking. Originally, a national survey on ageing had been planned, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only the pilot study could be concluded. During the pilot study, it was found that secondary data on older persons were available in various Ministries. However, it was often not tabulated, and the Ministries were not aware of its usability. A project was initiated to make use of the data for the review. It was expected that the data could be used to assess the implementation of the MIPAA at the national level. It was also hoped that a national survey on ageing could be conducted in the future, once COVID-19 was controlled. Working with secondary data could also be beneficial in cases where primary data were not available.

25. Several participants expressed interest in participating in further capacity-building activities related to data collection. The importance of a regional forum to share and exchange country experiences in collecting, tabulating and dissemination data on older persons was emphasized.

D. Session 3: Proposed Survey on MIPAA Implementation in Asia and the Pacific

26. The session was moderated by Ms. Thelma Kay, Board Member, Active Ageing Consortium Asia Pacific. She invited Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP, and Mr. Napaphat Satchanawakul, ESCAP Consultant, to present the draft ESCAP survey on progress in implementation of MIPAA for the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA in Asia and the Pacific.

27. Ms. Henning and Mr. Satchanawakul pointed out that according to the Madrid Plan of Action, the main responsibility to implement it was with Governments, see paragraph 116. Systematic reviews of implementation of MIPAA by Member States was essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons, see paragraph 131. The presenters further gave an overview of the draft survey. The survey had been structured according to the priority directions, issues and objectives of MIPAA. The survey was voluntary, and member States were encouraged to follow a bottom-up participatory approach when completing it. Wherever possible, SDG indicators had been identified and listed along the survey questions. Governments were requested to provide data and information when answering the questions. They should also identify lessons learned and good practices. The survey included the following topics, covering the priority directions of MIPAA: national policy and MIPAA implementation; older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; ensuring enabling and supportive environments; data; COVID-19 and older persons; and other issues. Some questions were discussed in detail to demonstrate how they covered all priority directions of MIPAA. Member States were requested to provide further feedback on the survey during the working group session on the following day and after the meeting. Moreover, Ms. Henning pointed out that ESCAP was offering capacity-building support to member States in completing the survey and conducting national reviews, upon request.

28. Participants welcomed the survey and expressed that it was very timely and comprehensive. It was suggested to strengthen the links to the SDGs since it would generate stronger interest by Governments in completing the survey.

29. The ageing focal point from Kyrgyzstan reported that the country had established an “active longevity platform” under which it also conducted surveys. Interest to connect with other platforms of similar nature was expressed.

30. While welcoming the survey, some participants mentioned expected difficulties in providing comprehensive answers because of the cross-cutting nature of ageing. Communication within Governments was sometimes limited, which made receiving inputs from other Ministries difficult. It was suggested that the guidelines to fill the survey be expanded and some further capacity-building on how to collect answers from different Government entities be provided. Some participants also requested to receive their countries' answers to the previous MIPAA survey of 2017

E. Session 4: Review of Ageing Related Policies

31. The session was moderated by Mr. Peter Morrison, Adviser at HelpAge International. He invited Ms. Camilla Williamson, ESCAP Consultant, to provide an overview of ageing-related policies at the global and regional levels.

32. Ms. Williamson presented an overview of key elements of ageing policies in the Asia and Pacific region which had been summarized in a research paper and would eventually serve as a guide for policymakers. She outlined that the research was built on previous work conducted by ESCAP, UNFPA and HelpAge International in the region. It also considered (a) the context in which ageing policies had been developed; (b) international and regional policy frameworks on ageing and development; and (c) key stages in the policymaking process. The importance of participatory stakeholder engagement and consideration of those affected by aging policies, such as families and communities, was highlighted throughout the policymaking process. This could be achieved by forming working groups, initiating consultation processes, the establishment of focus groups and the launching of surveys. All these possibilities would ensure that stakeholders were engaged from the beginning to the end of the policymaking process. Rights-based, life-course and gender responsive approaches to ageing policies were also discussed, as well as the role of social protection at all ages in furthering these agendas. The benefits of integrating ageing policies with population-wide development policies was explored, recommending leveraging opportunities and interlinkages between MIPAA and wider policies and processes. The presentation concluded by highlighting some examples of integrated policy approaches adopted in the region, including social pensions, progress towards universal health coverage, the development of care and support systems, age-friendly communities, and older people's associations.

33. In the subsequent discussion participants shared their experience in developing and implementing ageing policies. Overall, linking the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with any implementation strategies for ageing-related policies would increase commitment to population ageing because the 2030 Agenda could not be achieved without addressing the needs of older persons. Also, one should link the implementation of ageing-related policies to any related policies rooted in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Ageing policies alone would not be sufficient – population ageing also had to be mainstreamed in other policy areas.

34. Participants stated that at times, obstacles to implementation prevented a review from being conducted. One participant reported that most of the funding on ageing was allocated for social pensions, but other areas would not be able to attract funding.

35. The focal point of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that there had been few non-governmental organizations focusing on older persons. To address this issue, foundations run by older persons had been established to implement MIPAA. These foundations were also conducting capacity-building of older persons and were also consulted for policy development.

Other countries reported that civil society groups addressing the concerns of older persons were quite active, but they often received limited funding.

36. Participants also highlighted the need to integrate the use of ICTs into ageing policies. The COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated the importance of using ICTs in the delivery of healthcare and educational services. The pandemic had also redoubled the need to increase access of older persons to ICTs. In addition, ICT policies also needed to consider expanding access to older persons.

F. Session 5a: Group Work 1 - Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA - Ensuring a Bottom-Up Approach of the Review of the MIPAA

37. Participants were split into two parallel breakout groups.

38. Working group 1 was moderated by Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director, HelpAge, Asia and Pacific region, Thailand, while working group 2 was moderated by Ms. Susana Harding, Director of the International Longevity Centre, Tsao Foundation, Singapore. Both working groups focused on the bottom-up approach for policymaking and review and monitoring of older persons' policies.

39. The summary of the discussions is reported under Session 6.

G. Session 5b: Group Work 2 - Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA - Review of the Draft Survey

40. Participants were split into two parallel breakout groups.

41. Working group 1 was moderated by Ms. Meredith Wyse, Senior Social Development Specialist - Aging and Care Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, while working group 2 was moderated by Ms. Wassana Im-em, Technical Specialist on Population and Development UNFPA, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok. Both working groups focused on the draft MIPAA survey.

42. The summary of the discussions is reported under Session 6.

H. Session 6: Reporting Back

43. The session was moderated by Mr. Rio Hada, OHCHR.

44. Mr. Hada invited Mr. Channarith Meng and Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer, both ESCAP, to report on the views and experiences shared by the participants in the breakout sessions 5a and 5b.

45. Mr. Meng, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division provided a summary of the discussions in Session 5a. In the session, participants had shared their experiences and approaches with a bottom-up approach in the implementation and review of MIPAA.

46. Several countries reported on their experiences in involving stakeholders, academia, and others in designing country action plans to implement MIPAA and to conduct regular reviews. One country [Kyrgyzstan] reported that parliamentarians had established a platform for longevity and active ageing in 2018. The platform brought together civil society organizations, academic institutions, international organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss issues faced by older persons, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This participatory approach had allowed parliamentarians and the government to listen and receive inputs and recommendations from relevant stakeholders. At the same time, it was decided to guide government agencies in working together and ensuring the provision of social protection and other social services to older persons. Other country focal points reported that they had successfully institutionalized a bottom-up approach through national committees and engaged retired civil servants and youth at the community level to support healthy ageing. A successful example of a bottom-up approach was reported from Singapore, where inputs from population groups of all ages were on the national plan on successful ageing.

47. One country focal point [Armenia] indicated that a public consultation would be organized to collect further inputs to the MIPAA. Voices of older persons and civil society organizations would be included to review and revise the draft response of the MIPAA survey. Social media and a website would be used for a promotional campaign to raise awareness and as a source of information.

48. Participants also reflected on challenges in using a bottom-up approach. It was noted that only very few NGOs were engaged in advocacy activities related to population ageing, most were welfare-based. It was suggested that Governments should reach out to partners and suitable NGOs to ensure a whole-of-society-approach. It was also suggested to include leaders of faith-based and youth organizations in the bottom-up approach. Difficulties in accessing funding to promote healthy ageing as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were major challenges for older persons. Moreover, it was important to also include older persons in rural areas when holding consultations on the survey. Many older persons in Asia and the Pacific were residing in rural and remote areas. It was important to have them participate in consultations when the survey was completed.

49. While some countries already had mechanisms to promote a bottom-up approach, the two working groups recommended that such a mechanism should be established in other countries or expanded to engage all relevant stakeholders, including those working at the grass roots level.

50. Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer, ESCAP, summarized the discussions of Session 5b. Participants had welcomed the survey as very timely and comprehensive. They had expressed their overall agreement with the survey. It was pointed out that the survey was particularly important for countries that conducted the MIPAA review for the first time. Some countries pointed at the prevailing challenges related to COVID-19 related lockdowns which made inter-ministerial coordination more difficult. It was suggested to have a follow up meeting with the same group of countries once focal points had started to collect data and information to complete the survey. Some participants recommended adding questions related to older migrants and housing, and they also suggested to combine some questions.

51. Further, participants made suggestions about capacity-building needs to complete the survey. Some participants suggested to bring in stakeholders from the municipal level for the review. An online version of the survey should be developed and distributed along with a fillable, and password protected paper version. Some participants requested that a complimentary document be developed, listing key terms and concepts on

population ageing. Other countries noted that they might not be able to respond to all questions and would only focus on the ones that applied to their national contexts.

52. Mr. Hada thanked the participants and ensured that the group of United Nations entities along with ESCAP were ready to support member States in responding to the survey.

I. Next steps and closing

53. The session was moderated by Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP. Participants pointed out that the MIPAA review and appraisal process should be viewed as a long-term process, bringing together relevant ministries and stakeholders reviewing the implementation of MIPAA, but also identifying areas of future work. Member States could learn from each other and share good practices.

54. In discussing the following steps, the importance of a holistic bottom-up as well as whole-of government approach was emphasized. It was stressed that the voices of older persons needed to be included. In this context it was stressed that stakeholder groups, supporting the welfare of older persons were important, but were not a replacement for the voices of older persons.

55. During the discussion, several countries expressed their interest in receiving technical cooperation and capacity-building support from ESCAP, including support to translate the survey into national languages.

56. Ms. Henning summarized the discussion as follows:

- a. Member States should consider a bottom-up participatory approach when completing the survey; thus, including primary (older persons) and secondary stakeholders (government ministries, departments, civil society, the private sector, national academic and research institutions and the media) to promote mutual learning and sharing of information.
- b. The survey, as presented during the meeting, would address all three pillars of MIPAA; in addition, data, ICTs, COVID-19 and “other” emerging issues would also be addressed.
- c. The national review process provided an opportunity to ESCAP member States to review MIPAA implementation and to identify areas of further work; thus, the review and appraisal process was closely connected to strengthening and developing ageing policies at the national levels.
- d. Wherever possible, survey questions should be answered with a view to related SDGs, so that synergies between MIPAA and the 2030 Agenda could be addressed; moreover, areas of concern to the Decade of Healthy Ageing could also be addressed when completing the survey.
- e. An online version of the survey would be created together with a password-protected paper version and a guidance document.
- f. The survey would be made available in Chinese, English and Russian. Translations of the survey questionnaire into other national languages would be considered, as appropriate. ESCAP would seek support from the offices of the Resident Coordinators in this regard.

- g. The survey would be launched in June 2021, and member States would have until 31 October 2021 to complete it.
- h. If member States were interested in capacity-building provided by ESCAP, they should contact ESCAP after the meeting.
- i. If participants had further comments regarding the survey, they should submit them to ESCAP by 14 May 2021.
- j. A second consultation of ageing focal points would be scheduled before October 2021 to allow ESCAP member States to share experiences, lessons learned and good practices in completing the national surveys.

57. Dr. Tata, ESCAP, stressed that the review process would also help countries identify existing data gaps. The review process could be used as a basis to design new and revise existing policies on ageing. The whole United Nations system would be pleased to offer support to countries in the review process and provide further capacity building. He then thanked the national focal points for their active participation and the United Nations colleagues and other partners for their contributions and inputs to the consultation. He then closed the meeting.

III. ANNEX

A. Programme

Day 1 - Thursday, 6 May 2021	
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Virtual platform opens</i>
11:00 - 11:20	Opening and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP • Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP
11:20 - 12:15	Session 1: Setting the Stage: Population ageing, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and Decade of Healthy Ageing Moderator: Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the MIPAA, Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP • Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific, Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer, ESCAP • The life-cycle approach to ageing, Mr. Rintaro Mori, UNFPA • Decade of Healthy Ageing, Dr Neena Raina, WHO South-East Asia, • Dr. Hiromasa Okayasu, and Dr. A. B. Dey, Consultant Healthy Ageing, WHO • Ageism and good practices to address it, Mr. Rio Hada, OHCHR • Q&A
12:15 - 12:45	Session 2: Data and information on population ageing Moderator: Mr. Markus Ruck, ILO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical Indicators to measure progress in implementation of the MIPAA, Ms. Jessica Gardner, Statistician and Consultant (video presentation) • Q&A
12:45 - 12:55	<i>Break</i>
12:55 - 13:55	Session 3: Proposed survey on MIPAA implementation in Asia and the Pacific Moderator: Ms. Thelma Kay, Board Member, Active Ageing Consortium Asia Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft survey for the Fourth Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Mr. Napaphat Satchanawakul, Consultant • Q&A
13:55 - 14:00	Outlook to day 2 Mr. Marco Roncarati, ESCAP
Day 2 - Friday, 7 May 2021	
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Virtual platform opens</i>
11:00 - 11:10	Recap of day 1 (including assigning to working groups) Mr. Channarith Meng, ESCAP

11:10 – 11:55	<p>Session 4: Review of ageing-related policies Moderator: Mr. Peter Morrison, HelpAge International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key elements of Ageing Policies, Ms. Camilla Williamson, Consultant • Q&A
11:55 – 12:35	<p>Session 5a: Group work 1 - Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA - ensuring a bottom-up approach of the review of the MIPAA</p> <p>Co-Moderators: Mr. Eduardo Klien, HelpAge International and Ms. Susana Harding, Tsao Foundation Co-Rapporteurs: Mr. Channarith Meng and Marco Roncarati, ESCAP</p>
12:35 – 12:45	<i>Break</i>
12:45 – 14:00	<p>Session 5b: Group work 2 - Fourth Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA - review of the draft survey</p> <p>Co-Moderators: Ms. Wassana Im-em, UNFPA and Ms. Meredith Wyse, ADB Co-Rapporteurs: Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer and Sabine Henning, ESCAP</p>
14:00 – 14:05	<i>Break</i>
14:05 – 14:30	<p>Session 6: Reporting back Moderator: Ms. Rio Hada, OHCHR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work 1: Mr. Channarith Meng, ESCAP • Group work 2: Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer, ESCAP
14:30 – 15:45	<p>Next steps and closing Moderator: Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

B. List of Participants

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