Engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

I. 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 and 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”.

As of 8 February 2022
II. Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of MIPAA

In accordance with GA resolution 76/138 and ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), supported by regional partners, is organizing the Fourth Review and Appraisal of MIPAA from 29 June to 1 July 2022.

As part of this review and appraisal, ESCAP will organize stakeholder consultations on the three priority directions of MIPAA. Main findings and recommendations of the consultations will be summarized in an information paper to be submitted to the Fourth Review and Appraisal of MIPAA in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of these consultations is to bring the bottom-up participatory approach of the review and appraisal of MIPAA to the regional level and identify challenges and opportunities of population ageing that transcend national boundaries from the stakeholder perspective.

In 2021, ESCAP, in collaboration with regional partners, supported member States in conducting national reviews and appraisals of MIPAA. As part of the national and regional reviews and appraisals in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP launched a MIPAA survey in June 2021. The survey covers all priority directions of MIPAA and additional emerging issues, such as the impact of COVID-19 on older persons and societies. The survey is available in Chinese, English and Russian. ESCAP member States were given until December 2021 to complete the survey. Survey responses are posted on this website. In completing the surveys, Governments and their national focal points on ageing were encouraged to use a bottom-up participatory approach.

A. Next steps in engaging with stakeholders

A virtual briefing will take place in early February 2022. It will provide an opportunity for ESCAP and some of its regional partners to brief stakeholders about the forthcoming consultations and overall plans for the Fourth Review and Appraisal of MIPAA in Asia and the Pacific. It will also include an open Q&A session and help identify entry points for stakeholder engagement in the regional review process.

Following the briefing, at least three stakeholder consultations will be organized from March/April to May 2022, focusing on the priority directions of MIPAA, namely:

- a. Older persons and development
- b. Advancing health and well-being into old age
- c. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

Emerging issues such as the impact of COVID-19; intergenerational solidarity; climate change; digital transformation and the future of work will be discussed throughout the consultations. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed. In general, the discussion topics will follow the main issues identified in the MIPAA survey.

The consultations will be held virtually.

To ensure consistency, all consultations will use the same template for the concept note and programme. ESCAP, with support from its subregional offices, if possible, will work with its United Nations regional partners and volunteer stakeholders to co-organize stakeholder consultations. This would involve the drafting of concept notes, setting the agenda, drafting guiding questions and identifying speakers, moderators and note-takers.

---

1 Member of the Asia-Pacific Informal Regional Network of Focal Points on Ageing will be invited to co-organize the consultations. So far, ESCAP, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNFPA, WHO are members of the group. In addition, ADB in Asia and the Pacific and HelpAge International, Asia-Pacific, are also members. The network has been recognized as a networking group of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultative Platform structure.
A summary report will be produced following each consultation, which would seek to capture the key issues and recommendations raised in the discussions. In addition, an information paper summarizing all consultations will be submitted to the intergovernmental meeting.

About 6 weeks prior to the intergovernmental meeting, another briefing of stakeholders will be organized on the status of preparations.

**B. Modalities for stakeholder engagement**

ESCAP will facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the official agenda of the regional review meeting, inter alia, through: (a) participation as expert roundtable panelists and (b) enabling oral interventions in line with the rules of procedure of the Commission. Joint statements by stakeholders are encouraged. Stakeholders are invited to organize side events, including in collaboration with other stakeholders, ESCAP member States, United Nations entities and others.

**C. Identifying stakeholders**

Throughout 2021, ESCAP has compiled a list of stakeholders working on issues related to population ageing and older persons in Asia and the Pacific which have been recommended by United Nations partners in Asia and the Pacific. Also included in the list are NGOs in the region in consultative status with ECOSOC working on older persons’ issues and NGOs which participated in the Third Regional Review and Appraisal of MIPAA.

More generally, following the definition of stakeholders in MIPAA and DESA guidelines on the bottom-up participatory approach to MIPAA review and appraisal, the group of stakeholders includes: older persons, civil society, the private sector, national academic and research institutions, and the media (see also Article 17 of MIPAA). Given the intergenerational aspects of population ageing, young people and their respective organizations will also be included, as appropriate. Thematic and geographic representation, scope of mandate, and gender will be recognized when selecting stakeholders in the consultations and the intergovernmental meeting.