



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

22-24 November 2011

Beijing

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE SECOND REGIONAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Commission, at its sixty-seventh session, adopted resolution 67/5 of 25 May 2011 on “Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region”. The Commission, in its resolution 67/5, called upon all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and decided to convene the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012.
2. To support the organization of the Intergovernmental Meeting, the Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held in Beijing from 22 to 24 November 2011.
3. The Meeting was attended by 53 experts from governments, research institutions and civil society organizations as well as relevant international organizations. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to the Report.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

4. The objectives of the Meeting were to:
 - A. Exchange national experiences related to the second review of MIPAA implementation;
 - B. Identify key priorities related to population ageing in the region;
 - C. Consider the draft Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

III. AGENDA

5. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda
 4. Review of the status of the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA): sharing of experiences and good practices
 5. Consideration of key regional priorities: Roundtable discussions and working groups
 6. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Meeting
 7. Closing of the Meeting
6. The Meeting elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Ms. Alicia Bala (Philippines)
Vice-chairperson:	Mr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas (Bangladesh)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Russell de Burgh (Australia)

IV. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. Mr. Chuanshu Chen, President of the China National Committee on Ageing, inaugurated the Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

8. In his opening statement, Mr. Chen noted the impact that population ageing will have on the development experience of the region. In particular Mr. Chen highlighted the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of population ageing. Mr Chen shared China's experience in developing policy measures to address the challenges concerning population ageing and progress made to enhance the wellbeing of older persons in China. In his address, Mr. Chen emphasized China's commitment to regional cooperation in meeting these challenges, and noted the important collaboration with ESCAP in the 10-year review of MIPAA's implementation in the Asia-Pacific region.

9. On behalf of the ESCAP secretariat, Mr. Donovan Storey, Chief of the Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division, conveyed the importance of the meeting in the identification of regional priorities for action. Mr. Storey noted the region's unprecedented and rapid demographic transition towards ageing societies – the number of people aged above 60 years old would represent one-quarter of the region's total population by 2050. He further noted that the recommendations of the meeting would provide a basis for the preparation of the draft outcome document to be considered by the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012.

V. REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING (MIPAA): SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES

10. The ESCAP secretariat presented the roadmap for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including actions at the national, regional and global level. The ESCAP secretariat then presented preliminary key findings from the Regional Survey on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific on each of the three MIPAA pillars.

11. Ms. Lan Liu, Institute of Population Research, Peking University, on behalf of the Government of China, then shared the methodology and results of the national review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA in China. Significant progress has been made in each of the three pillars of MIPAA over the past decade. Challenges remained in addressing poverty, infrastructure, social participation, health care and the support of productive ageing. The results of the appraisal exercise were being used to steer future policy directions on meeting the needs of ageing populations in China.

12. Mr. Cheung Ming Alfred Chan, Asia Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, and on behalf of Macao, China, outlined the participatory appraisal system on MIPAA implementation. The experience of Macao, China, in utilizing evaluation indices on policy implementation and quality of services was discussed, as was the mainstreaming of ageing issues into government policy. In particular, Macao, China, had developed highly participatory bottom-up appraisal systems in the implementation and monitoring of MIPAA, and such approaches had provided a greater understanding of the benefits older persons derive from policy change.

13. Experts from the following countries shared experiences in MIPAA implementation and review: Armenia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar,

Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Experts shared national experiences in developing national plans and strategies on meeting the needs of older persons and in also addressing the key pillars of MIPAA. Key initiatives highlighted by the experts included policies to encourage the economic and social participation of older persons, ensuring enabling environments for active ageing (including the care economy), the role of community-based and informal care systems, the building of partnerships inclusive of government, civil society and the private sector, giving greater attention to gender dimensions of ageing and the specific needs of women, and the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the well-being of older persons.

14. Experts also outlined some important and ongoing challenges. These included regional imbalances in the quality of life of older persons - especially those in remote and rural communities, concern over the continued efficacy of informal and family care systems, the impacts of natural disasters and environmental change on older persons, the lack of portability of social protection and pension systems, limited national resources to support MIPAA implementation and review, and the specific challenges of meeting the pension and health care needs of those working in the informal sector.

15. Representatives of civil society organizations, namely the Fiji Council of Social Services and HelpAge International, also shared their experiences. In particular evidence was presented on the value of participatory research on understanding the needs of older persons through their voices. Speakers drew on specific examples to highlight the value of civil society-government partnerships in evaluation and appraisal of MIPAA.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF KEY REGIONAL PRIORITIES: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

A. Overview

16. Mr. John Beard, Director, Ageing and Life Course Department, World Health Organization provided an overview on population ageing impacts, challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. He highlighted some key challenges of population ageing, including the need for health promotion across the life course, as well as creating age-friendly environments to enable long-term social care. In addition, Mr. Beard pointed out that population ageing could present economic dividends as people lived longer and remained potentially active and productive, offering opportunities to rethink national development agendas in new and creative ways.

17. In the subsequent discussion, experts discussed possible variations of the life course approach, particularly for women, those working in the informal sector and those living in remote and rural communities. Experts also discussed the importance of informal support networks, and the need for countries to develop systems that would support older people which account for social and cultural strengths and norms. Finally, managing potential budgetary trade-offs in supporting ageing populations was also discussed.

B. Roundtable discussions on key regional priorities

Pillar 1: Older persons and development

18. Mr. Russell de Burgh, Assistant Secretary, Office for an Ageing Australia, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, highlighted Australia's experience in promoting productive ageing. Information on recent initiatives to encourage continuing participation was provided, and how the need to respond to gender inequity has contributed to shaping these initiatives. Action to address age

discrimination was outlined. Mr. de Burgh made reference to a number of initiatives which engage senior citizens' skills in order to challenge stereotypes and which provide greater livelihood opportunities for older persons.

19. Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Representative, HelpAge International, provided an overview of the key issues concerning social protection for older persons. Mr. Klien emphasized the importance of furthering older persons' participation and the effectiveness of Older Persons' Associations (OPAs). In addition, given that only 1 in 5 persons reaching old age have pension coverage, he called for greater attention to the development of pension schemes which provided a secure and regular income into old age.

20. Mr. Peng Du, Director, Gerontology Institute, Renmin University, China, shared China's experience on older persons and development, pointing out the difficulties in providing long-term insurance and social care for older persons and problems of fragmentation in these programs. Other notable challenges include the high number of migrant communities in China and the lack of portability of pension schemes, where they existed. Mr. Du lastly noted the development of decentralized programs to address regional differences in ageing and needs of older persons.

21. In the subsequent discussion, experts discussed how most effectively to provide pensions for those who had spent their productive ages in the informal sector, and are therefore unlikely to have pension support in their old age. Experts also discussed the gaps in pension coverage for migrant populations.

Pillar 2: Advancing health and well-being into old age

22. Ms. Mary Ann Tsao, President, Tsao Foundation, Singapore, presented on advancing health and well-being into old age with examples from Singapore. Ms. Tsao pointed out that accessible and appropriate health services for older people - including primary care, long term care and other community based health and social support services - are still insufficient in many countries. Mechanisms to better coordinate and integrate health and social services across the spectrum are also necessary to effectively address the care of older people with multiple and complex health and social needs.

Pillar 3: Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

23. Ms. Grace M. Y. Chan, Chief Officer, Elderly Service, Hong Kong Council of Social Services highlighted a number of actions taken in Hong Kong, China, in creating a barrier-free and age-friendly social and physical environment. A number of initiatives discussed involved partnership inclusive of civil society, government and the private sector. The Government of Hong Kong, China, has also strongly pursued an "ageing in place" programme with encouragement for home-based caregivers. Finally, Ms. Chan shared examples of recent participatory approaches in which older persons were able to provide accessibility evaluations of their immediate environment, often with the support of peer-to-peer networks.

24. In the subsequent discussion, experts noted the potential for a stronger role of the private sector in supporting barrier free physical environments for older persons. The importance of participatory approaches, in hearing and responding to the voices of older persons, was also noted as providing an important basis for partnership between government and older persons.

C. Working group discussions

25. Three working groups were conducted as follows:

- (a) Older persons and development
Co-chairs: Mr. Xiao Caiwei and Mr. Russell de Burgh
- (b) Advancing health and well-being into old age
Chair: Mr. Makmur Sunusi
- (c) Ensuring enabling and supportive environments
Chair: Ms. Jebarajes Krishnamoorthy

26. The working groups provided the opportunity to develop recommendations on key regional priorities under each thematic focus.

27. Input presentations were made by Ms. Wendy Holmes and Ms. Aabha Chaudhary to support the work of Working Group (b) on “Advancing health and well-being into old age” and Working Group (c) on “Ensuring enabling and supportive environments” respectively.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

28. The Meeting considered the draft Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The participants endorsed the proposed Annotated Provisional Agenda*.

29. The Meeting considered the recommendations on key regional priorities from the working groups. The following tables reflect the result of those working group deliberations.

MIPAA priority direction I: Older persons and development		
Issues	Objectives	Actions
Issue 1: Active participation in society and development	Objective 1: Recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons.	Encourage the establishment of OPAs or their equivalents in rural and urban areas to provide a strong voice and create other opportunities for older persons.
	Objective 2: Participation of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels.	Empower older persons and their organizations to participate in policy development processes and decision-making at all levels. Ensure older persons have equal access to advocacy and redress mechanisms.

* Following the Meeting and upon further consultation with member States, the proposed dates for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting have been revised to 10-12 September 2012.

Issue 2: Work and the ageing labour force	Objective 1: Employment opportunities for all older persons who want to work.	<p>Recognize and value the role of older persons in the informal sector.</p> <p>Remove barriers to participation in the labour market including the promotion of flexible work arrangements.</p> <p>Facilitate partnerships, including with the private sector, which result in greater employment and income generation opportunities for older persons.</p>
Issue 3: Rural development, migration and urbanization	Objective 1: Improvement of living conditions and infrastructure in rural areas.	Promote age-friendly environments in both urban and rural areas.
	Objective 2: Integration of older migrants within their communities.	Take measures to support older migrant workers returning to their place of origin.
Issue 4: Access to knowledge, education and training	Objective 1: Equality of opportunity throughout life with respect to continuing education, training and retraining as well as vocational guidance and placement services.	<p>Promote opportunities for lifelong learning for older persons and use of appropriate teaching techniques.</p> <p>Encourage transfer of knowledge, skills and experiences of older persons to younger generations.</p>
	Objective 2: Full utilization of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.	Promote access of older persons to ICT, especially in rural and remote areas.
Issue 5: Intergenerational solidarity	Objective 1: Strengthening of solidarity through equity and reciprocity between generations.	<p>Promote solidarity between generations by encouraging people of all ages to have an understanding of ageing.</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate intergenerational interactions for economic productive activities at the local level.</p>
Issue 6: Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention	Objective 1: Reduction of poverty among older persons.	<p>Develop policies aimed at ensuring all older persons have adequate economic and social protection, including through contributory and non-contributory pensions.</p> <p>Develop specific policies for women who are more likely to engage in informal unpaid work through their life course.</p>
	Objective 2: Promotion of programmes to enable all workers to acquire basic social protection/social security, including where applicable, pensions, disability insurance and health benefits.	

	Objective 3: Sufficient minimum income for all older persons, paying particular attention to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.	Address barriers to portability of social security schemes.
Issue 7: Emergency situations	Objective 1: Adequate and appropriate access of older persons to disaster risk reduction measures and management plans, including food, shelter and medical care and other services before, during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.	Ensure that the needs of older persons are addressed in disaster risk reduction and management plans. Ensure the voice of older persons is heard in response to disasters and in reducing the impact of climate change.
	Objective 2: Enhanced contributions of older persons to the reestablishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies.	Address the issue of social isolation of internally displaced older persons in time of social conflict and emergency situations.

MIPAA Priority direction II: Advancing health and well-being into old age		
Issues	Objectives	Actions
Issue 1: Health promotion and well-being throughout life	Objective 1: Reduction of the cumulative effects of factors that increase the risk of disease and injury, and encourage factors that promote good health and independence.	Set and monitor targets to improve the health status of older persons and reduce disability and morbidity. Develop policies and models for health promotion and disease prevention in all socio-economic settings for the Asia-Pacific region.
	Objective 2: Development of policies to prevent ill-health and promote quality of life among older persons.	Promote health education and training with a view to effecting behavioral change in healthy lifestyle and management of lifestyle related diseases/chronic conditions.
	Objective 3: Access to food and adequate nutrition and a healthy environment for all older persons.	Ensure older persons have access to information and access to services on sexual health.

		Develop policies from a gender perspective that consider the different situation of older men and women, and pay special attention to the needs of older women, including lifestyle, finance and health, in view of the higher proportion of women among the “oldest old” (aged 80 and above).
Issue 2: Universal and equal access to quality, age appropriate and gender sensitive health-care services	Objective 1: Elimination of social and economic inequalities based on age, gender or any other ground, including linguistic barriers, to ensure that older persons have universal and equal access to health care.	Develop strategies to provide a comprehensive continuum of care to promote ageing in place - ranging from health maintenance, acute care, chronic disease management, long term care to end of life care.
	Objective 2: Development and strengthening of primary health-care services to meet the needs of older persons and promote their inclusion in the process.	Promote affordable dental and eye care services. Develop people-centered models for primary care in all socio-economic settings for the Asia-Pacific region.
	Objective 3: Development of a continuum of quality and appropriate health care to meet the needs of older persons.	Promote coordination and integration within health services as well as with social services.
	Objective 4: Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of primary and long-term care services.	Provision of comprehensive and accessible rehabilitation services. Ensure access to quality, appropriate and affordable end of life care. Ensure older persons have access to responsive physical and mental health services, particularly in remote and rural areas.
Issue 3: Older persons and HIV	Objective 1: Reduce the impact of the HIV epidemic on older persons, for those who are infected, at greater risk of infection, and caregivers for infected or surviving family members.	Ensure that health promotion messages include older persons living with and affected by HIV. Ensure that the continuum of health and social care services addresses the needs of older persons living with and affected by HIV.
	Objective 2: Provision of adequate information, training in care giving skills, treatment, medical care and social support to older persons living with HIV and their caregivers.	Strengthen the support for older persons affected by HIV.

	Objective 3: Support the contribution of older persons to development in their role as caregivers for children with chronic diseases, including HIV, and as surrogate parents.	
Issue 4: Training of care providers, health professionals and social service providers	Objective 1: Provision of improved information and training for care providers, health professionals and social service providers at all levels on the needs of older persons.	Ensure coordinated and comprehensive training frameworks to support all stakeholders to ensure understanding of the needs of older persons.
Issue 5: Mental health needs of older persons	Objective 1: Development of comprehensive mental health, including dementia, care services ranging from prevention to early intervention, the provision of treatment services and the management of mental health problems in older persons.	Ensure provision of a continuum of services with a community orientation, including early detection and respite care for caregivers of older persons with mental health disorders, including dementia and mood disorders.
	Objective 2: Support to caregivers of older persons with mental health problems and dementia.	Develop a strategy to overcome discrimination and stigma towards older persons with mental health disorders and their families. Promote overall mental well-being for older persons.
Issue 6: Older persons and disabilities	Objective 1: Maintenance of maximum functional capacity throughout the life course and promotion of the full participation of older persons with disabilities.	Ensure provision and accessibility of a continuum of services for older persons with disabilities and their caregivers with a community orientation. Develop a strategy to overcome discrimination and stigma towards older persons with disabilities. Provide acute and ongoing rehabilitation services, including environmental modification and provision of assistive technology to optimize the ability of older persons to live independently and participate actively in the community. Provide support to caregivers of older persons with disabilities.

MIPAA Priority direction III : Ensuring enabling and supportive environments		
Issues	Objectives	Actions
Issue 1: Housing and the living environment	Objective 1: Promotion of “ageing in place” in the community with due regard to individual preferences and affordable housing options for older persons.	<p>Coordinate multi-sectoral efforts to support the continued integration of older persons with their families and communities.</p> <p>Encourage investment in local infrastructure, such as transportation, health, sanitation, ICT, and security, to foster active participation of the elderly in local communities and to support multigenerational communities.</p> <p>Link affordable housing with social support services to ensure the integration of living arrangements, long-term care and opportunities for social interaction.</p>
	Objective 2: Improvement in housing and environmental design to promote independent living in particular for those with disabilities.	<p>Encourage age-friendly communities and universal design to ensure that public buildings and outdoor spaces are free of barriers to mobility and access.</p> <p>Assist older persons in making their homes free of barriers to mobility and access.</p> <p>Promote the use of technology and rehabilitation services designed to support independent living.</p>
	Objective 3: Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation for older persons.	<p>Improve the availability of efficient public transportation services in rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Facilitate the growth of both public and private alternative forms of transport in urban areas, such as neighborhood-based businesses and services.</p> <p>Encourage the training and assessment of older drivers, the design of safer roadways and the development of new kinds of vehicles that cater to the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.</p>

Issue 2: Care for older persons and support for caregivers	Objective 1: Provision of a continuum of care and services for older persons, bearing in mind the particular needs of women.	<p>Take steps to provide community-based care and support for family care.</p> <p>Establish and apply standards and mechanisms to ensure quality care in formal and informal settings.</p> <p>Promote provision of community-based care and support of family care, taking into account equal distribution of caring responsibilities between women and men, by measures which reconcile working and family life.</p>
	Objective 2: Support for caregivers, including the caregiving role of older persons.	<p>Support caregivers through training, information, psychological, economic, social and legislative mechanisms, including opportunities for formal accreditation.</p> <p>Identify how to assist older persons, in particular older women, in caregiving and address their specific social, economic and psychological needs.</p> <p>Recognize care giving skills of older persons through an accreditation scheme towards securing employment.</p>
Issue 3: Neglect, abuse and violence	Objective 1: Elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, particularly older women.	<p>Encourage further research into the causes, nature, extent, seriousness and consequences of all forms of elder abuse and violence against older women and men and widely disseminate findings of research and studies.</p> <p>Sensitize and educate society, using media and other awareness campaigns on the subject of elder abuse and violence.</p> <p>Enact and enforce legislation by strengthening implementation mechanisms to eliminate elder abuse and violence.</p> <p>Eliminate harmful and discriminatory traditional practices involving older persons, specifically widows, including land ownership and inheritance rights.</p>

	Objective 2: Creating and strengthening services to address elder abuse and violence.	<p>Establish early detection, intervention and reconciliation services for victims of elder abuse and violence.</p> <p>Take measures to ensure reporting of elder abuse and violence.</p> <p>Enhance cooperation between Government and civil society in addressing elder abuse and violence.</p>
Issue 4: Images of ageing	Objective 1: Enhancement of public recognition of the authority, wisdom, productivity and other important contributions of older persons and promotion of positive views of older persons.	<p>Encourage the mass media to highlight the contributions and resourcefulness of older persons.</p> <p>Introduce/institute awards that recognize and honor older persons for their contributions.</p> <p>Promote better images and perceptions of older persons including through the voices of older persons themselves.</p>

Strengthening national coordination mechanisms

29. Experts recognized that a number of initiatives at the national level could be taken to enhance the implementation of MIPAA and which would strengthen policy in support of older persons. These included the establishment of a nodal ministry with overall responsibility on ageing issues; establishing an overarching inter-disciplinary and consultative mechanism on ageing, including relevant ministries/departments (such as health, women); ensuring coordination between all levels of government; and ensuring the participation of older persons, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Regional Cooperation

30. Experts further noted the opportunities which could be considered to enhance regional cooperation in the implementation of MIPAA. These included:

- Raising awareness on MIPAA;
- Sharing of statistical data on ageing in the region;
- A platform for the regular exchange and documentation of good practices and regional initiatives on ageing;
- The sharing of effective and affordable models in support of healthy ageing, including appropriate tools, models of health care, self-care, community care, long-term care and health promotion appropriate for the region, reflecting different socio-economic levels of development;

- The development of a regional approach to the deficit of a skilled workforce in the region to care for older persons (including greater opportunities for accreditation, certification based on qualification standards etc); and
- Enhancing regional advocacy for greater resource allocation to the needs of older populations and in support of the well-being of ageing populations.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. The Meeting adopted its report on 24 November 2011.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXPERTS

Mr. Nugroho Abikusno, Head/Associate Professor, InResAge Jakarta, Faculty of Medicine, Trisakti University, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ms. Siriwan Aruntippaitune, Senior Social Worker, Bureau of Empowerment for Older Persons, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Alicia Bala, Undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Quezon City, Philippines

Mr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Cheung Ming Alfred Chan, Chair Professor of Social Gerontology and Director, Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China

Mr. Chuanshu Chen, President, China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA), Beijing, China

Ms. Grace M. Y. Chan, Chief Officer, Elderly Service, Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), Wanchai, Hong Kong, China

Ms. Aabha Chaudhary, Chairperson, Anugraha, New Delhi, India

Mr. Yi Chen, Chairman of the Board, Zhongshan Vocational College, Jiangsu, China

Mr. Sio Un Choi, Head of Department of Social Solidarity, Social Welfare Bureau, The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao, China

Mr. Russell de Burgh, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, Australia

Mr. Xueyi Deng, Programme Manager for Western China, HelpAge International, Xi'an, China

Ms. Konio Doko, Assistant Secretary, Disability and Elderly, Department for Community Development, Boroko, Papua New Guinea

Mr. Peng Du, Director, Gerontology Institute, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China

Ms. Susana Concorde Harding, Director, International Longevity Centre, Tsao Foundation, Singapore

Dr. Wendy Holmes, Principal Fellow-Healthy Ageing, Burnet Institute, Victoria, Australia

Mr. Keiichi Iwamoto, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Beijing, China

Mr. Aung Tun Khaing, Deputy Director General, Department of Social Welfare, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Mr. Mohammed Hassan Khan, Executive Director, Fiji Council of Social Services, Suva

Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Representative, East Asia/Pacific Regional Development Centre (EAPRDC), HelpAge International, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Mr. Agoes Kooshartoro, Special Advisor, Ministry of Social Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ms. Jebarajes Krishnamoorthy, Director, National Secretariat for Elders, Ministry of Social Services, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

Mr. Gangadharan K. R., Chairman, Heritage Foundation and Vice President (Asia), International Federation on Ageing, Hyderabad, India

Ms. Pui Seong Lam, Head of Elderly Service Division, Social Welfare Bureau, the Government of Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao, China

Ms. Lan Liu, Institute of Population Research, Peking University, Beijing, China

Mr. Teekaram Meena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi, India

Dr. Wai Chong Ng, Assistant Director, Tsao Foundation, Singapore

Mr. Hovhannes Poghosyan, Director, National Institute of Labour and Social Research, Ministry of Labour and Social Issues, Yerevan, Armenia

Mr. Nikolay Rakovskiy, Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation

Ms. Sanjmyatav Regzen, Senior Officer (Population and Poverty Issues), Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Mr. Chunlei Shan, Deputy Director, Jiangsu Provincial People Hospital, Nanjing, China

Ms. Marina Sirotkina, First Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation

Mr. Yiu Tung Suen, Research Intern, Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China and PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Ms. Julia Suhartini, Director of Social Services for Ageing, Ministry for Social Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

Mr. Makmur Sunusi, Director General for Social Rehabilitation, Ministry for Social Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani S. Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Women Community & Social Development, Apia, Samoa

Ms. Mengjun Tang, Project Officer, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), Beijing, China

Ms. Pui Yee Tang, Senior Project Officer (Research), Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China

Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan, Director of the Office, Viet Nam National Committee on Ageing, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Mr. Vladimir Trubin, Deputy Director, Department of Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation

Dr. Mary Ann Tsao, President, Tsao Foundation, Singapore

Mr. Nathan Vytialingam, President, Malaysian Healthy Ageing Society & Organizing Chairman, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mr. Zhihui Wang, Professor, National Center for Chronic Non-communicable Disease Control and Prevention (NCNCD), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Beijing, China

Dr. Dharmapriya Wesumperuma, Head of Programmes/Deputy RR, East Asia/Pacific Regional Development Centre (EAPRDC), HelpAge International, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Mr. Caiwei Xiao, Vice President, China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA), Beijing, China

Ms. Hongyan Xiao, Deputy Chief, Programme Section, International Department, China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA), Beijing, China

Ms. Juhua Yang, School of Social and Population, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China

Ms. Xiangjun Yin, Associate Professor, National Center for Chronic Non-communicable Disease Control and Prevention (NCNCD), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Beijing, China

UNITED NATIONS BODIES

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AND FUND (UNFPA)

Ms. Zeljka Mudrovcic, Deputy Representative, UNFPA China, Beijing, China

Ms. Hua Jin, Project Assistant, UNFPA China, Beijing, China

Mr. Michael Philip Guest, Consultant on Population Development, UNFPA, Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand

SPECIALIZED AGENCY AND RELATED ORGANIZATION

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Dr. John Roland Beard, Director, Ageing and Life Course Department, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Jinglin He, Senior Programme Officer, World Health Organization (WHO), Beijing, China

JOINT SECRETARIAT

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Mr. Donovan Storey	Chief, Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division
Ms. Cai Cai	Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division
Ms. Nathalie Meyer	Associated Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division
Ms. Yuko Kitada	Associate Social Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP Sub regional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA)
Ms. Panita Rattanakittiaporn	Team Assistant, Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division

China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA)

Ms. Xun Wang	Director, International Department
Ms. Jie Cai	Chief of Administration Section, International Department
Mr. Longxuan Wang	Communications Officer, Administration Section, International Department
Ms. Yang Hu	Communications Officer, Administration Section, International Department
Ms. Xiaoya Zhang	Programme Officer, Programme Section, International Department
Ms. Lin Zou	Programme Officer, Programme Section, International Department
Mr. Weixu Li	Staff, Publicity Department
