

Distr.: For participants only
20 July 2017

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and
Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Bangkok, 12-14 September 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the draft outcome document

Draft outcome document**

1. We, the delegates to the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017,

Preamble

2. *Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals that clearly identify older persons as an integral part of international development, inter alia, Goals 1, 3, 5, 10 and, in particular, Goal 11,

3. *Further reaffirming* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,⁴ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁵ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,⁶

4. *Recognizing* the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United

* E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/L.1/Rev.1.

** The final negotiated text will appear in the draft report and will be adopted under agenda item 5.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

³ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

⁶ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the follow-up to these conferences, as well as the World Health Assembly,

5. *Noting* the holding of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016,

6. *Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments,

7. *Reaffirming* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁷ proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

8. *Recalling* all General Assembly resolutions on matters relating to older persons, including older women, beginning with resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, and recalling also all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development, as well as of the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, on the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of older persons,

9. *Reaffirming* the outcome of the First World Assembly on Ageing,⁸ the United Nations Principles for Older Persons of 1991⁹ and the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 as agreed in the Proclamation on Ageing of 1992,¹⁰ as well as the outcomes of the Second World Assembly on Ageing¹¹ and of the follow-up reviews thereto, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of older persons on an equal and participatory basis,

10. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010, in which it established an open-ended working group, open to all States Members of the United Nations, for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures,

11. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/139 of 20 December 2012 on progress towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons,

12. *Recalling* that in General Assembly resolution 70/164 of 17 December 2015 on measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, it recognized that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, remained the only international instrument exclusively devoted to older persons and that measures towards achieving its

⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 (III).

⁸ See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16).

⁹ General Assembly resolution 46/91, annex.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 47/5, annex.

¹¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

objectives should be strengthened so as to improve its positive impact on the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons,

13. *Recognizing* subregional strategies and declarations, including the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the outcome document of the Twenty-seventh Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit entitled “Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN”,

14. *Acknowledging* that population ageing is an irreversible trend, which will lead to profound economic and social changes in societies as a whole and which will require forward-looking policies and sound social protection systems to allow for sustainable development in ageing societies,

15. *Noting* that different efforts made to increase cooperation and integration and that increasing awareness of and sensitivity to ageing issues on the part of Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, since the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, have not been sufficient to promote the full and effective participation by, and opportunities for, older persons in economic, social, cultural and political life,

16. *Noting with concern* that older persons make significant contributions to society, yet often face barriers in accessing health care and employment opportunities and that they are often at risk of living in poverty,

17. *Bearing in mind* that policies to address population ageing will benefit society as a whole,

18. *Resolve*, therefore, to intensify efforts with a view to strengthening the full and effective participation by, and opportunities for, older persons in economic, social, cultural and political life in the Asia-Pacific region, through the following recommendations:

Older persons and development

(a) To strengthen the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated policy frameworks that address and mainstream population ageing into national development strategies and plans, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(b) To enhance the technical capacity of the subregional, national and local bodies that are responsible for a coordinated and comprehensive government response to population ageing, including its gender dimensions, to become increasingly integrated within subregional and national strategies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) To underline the importance of investing adequate financial and human resources to accelerate the effective implementation of policies and legislation supportive of older persons, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including the establishment of monitoring mechanisms that are transparent and accessible;

(d) To strengthen the capacity to mainstream gender and age analysis as an essential step in planning all development activities not only those intended to benefit older people;

(e) To ensure that no older persons are left behind, including, in particular, older persons living in rural areas, indigenous and ethnic minority older persons, older migrants and older women as well as marginalized and vulnerable older persons in general;

(f) To focus support on older persons in rural areas without kin, in particular older women who face a longer old age, often with fewer resources, thus giving priority to the empowerment of older women in rural areas through access to financial and infrastructure services;

Income security and employment

(g) To promote decent work and re-employment opportunities, appropriate and flexible employment by public and private employers, and income-generating opportunities for older persons in both formal and informal sectors, particularly for older women, as well as encouraging lifelong learning;

(h) To take steps towards coherent systems of income security for older persons, combining savings throughout life, intergenerational transfers and social assistance;

(i) To strive, as appropriate in each country context, to ensure the integrity, sustainability, solvency and transparency of pension schemes, and, where appropriate, disability insurance, in particular for women and persons with disabilities, to expand coverage of and access to contributory pension systems and to consider establishing, where appropriate, a non-contributory pension system and a disability benefit system;

Addressing all forms of discrimination

(j) To ensure the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights of older persons and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against older persons;

(k) To ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights by all older persons and to address gender and age discrimination, including in employment and in access to health-care services, financial services, adequate housing and public transport, through adequate legislation, affirmative action measures or other appropriate measures, while taking into account the national context of each member State, culture and national legislation;

(l) To create and strengthen mechanisms for the participation and social inclusion of older persons in an environment of equality that serves to eradicate the prejudices and stereotypes that prevent them from fully enjoying those rights;

(m) To ensure the inclusion of older persons, and their specific requirements, vulnerabilities and capacities, in policy-making processes, including in humanitarian contexts and in particular in disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and practices and in emergency response;

Ensuring healthy lives at all ages

(n) To align disease prevention and health systems and to advance universal health coverage as a platform for bringing together various health and development efforts, so that all older persons have access to quality health services locally without suffering the financial hardship associated with paying for care;

(o) To underline the importance of healthy ageing among all age groups as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age, which requires responses at all ages and at multiple levels and in multiple sectors, including preventing and addressing functional and cognitive decline among older persons and fostering ageing in place;

(p) To develop health and social long-term care systems, including palliative care, with public, private and community providers that can deliver high-quality integrated care, while recognizing and enhancing the capacity of formal and informal caregivers and volunteers;

(q) To encourage the vibrant use of academia and the media for a positive image of active ageing, intergenerational linkage and lifelong preparation for healthy ageing, through age-friendly communities in the social mainstream;

(r) To increase awareness among younger generations about lifelong preparation for retirement and old age, especially health and financial security;

Enabling and supportive environments

(s) To promote adequate housing for older persons and ageing in place, as older persons should be able to live in environments that are safe and adaptable to personal preferences and changing capacities;

(t) To recognize the crucial importance of families, intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, and to further recognize the contributions that older women and older men make to their families, communities and nations;

(u) To promote age-friendly communities and workplaces, including through older persons' associations, in order to support the engagement of older persons as active agents of change in their lives and communities;

(v) To promote access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all;

(w) To provide opportunities for individual development, self-fulfilment and well-being throughout life as well as in later life, through, for example, access to lifelong learning (including technological advances) and participation in the community, while recognizing that older persons are not one homogenous group;

Data and research

(x) To encourage and promote research and development on innovative information and communications technologies for older persons;

(y) To encourage the harnessing of scientific research and expertise and to realize the potential of technology to focus on, inter alia, the individual, social and health implications of ageing, in particular in developing countries;

(z) To advocate for the quantifying and inclusion of older persons' contributions in national accounts, including unpaid care for family members;

(aa) To build the evidence base by promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and collating comprehensive multidisciplinary research on ageing and to ensure that routinely collected data are disaggregated by age, sex and disabilities and analysed to inform policy creation and to monitor and evaluate policies and programmes related to older persons;

19. *Encourage* the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue, inter alia, (a) supporting its members and associate members in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including through the periodic midterm review of members' progress in that regard; (b) supporting its members in creating forward-looking policies and monitoring frameworks to prepare for and adjust to the social and economic implications of ageing; (c) building capacities to provide comprehensive social protection systems that include the health and gender dimensions and that support populations throughout their life cycle, including older persons; and (d) encouraging the sharing of experiences in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action among States members of the Commission;

20. *Request* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to submit the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, through the Secretary-General, to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session, in 2018, for the third global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and to submit the report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fourth session for its information and consideration.
