

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Preparatory Regional Expert Meeting: Third Regional Review of the Madrid
International Plan of Action on Ageing
14-15 June 2017
Bangkok

Concept Note

Date and venue

The second Preparatory Regional Expert Meeting: Third Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing will be held from 14-15 June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Participation

Participants will be drawn from governments in the ESCAP region (officially nominated focal points for the MIPAA in particular), think tanks, academic institutions, civil society, older persons organizations, UN organizations, specialized agencies, sustainable development practitioners, and independent experts.

Objectives

The Regional Expert Meeting takes place within the context of the forthcoming Third Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The objectives of the Regional Expert Meeting are as follows:

1. To review and exchange good practices and experiences that promote a developmental approach to population ageing through the mainstreaming of older persons into international and national development plans and policies across all sectors;
2. To discuss elements of a draft outcome document for the Intergovernmental meeting on the Third Regional Review of the MIPAA to be held from 12 - 14 September 2017. The outcome document is expected to serve as a regional framework of action to support

countries to comprehensively address the remaining challenges in the effective implementation of MIPAA within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Structure and format of the Regional Expert Meeting

The Regional Expert Meeting will focus on discussing demographic trends and the future of population ageing in order to identify existing challenges and opportunities, as well as new and emerging regional policy priorities for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific Region. Promoting the rights of older persons in Asia and the Pacific through the sharing of good practices and experiences that promote a developmental approach to population ageing is key, as is the mainstreaming of older persons into international and national development plans and policies across all sectors. In view of the three priority areas of the MIPAA, and as a result of preliminary data analysis of MIPAA surveys received from countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, particular emphasis will be placed on the following three thematic areas that are likely to contribute substantially to the outcome document:

- a. Older persons and development: Poverty and Income Security
- b. Advancing health and well-being into old age: Universal Health Care
- c. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments: The Data Revolution

The Regional Expert Meeting will be preceded by a one day separate meeting on Income Security for Older Persons on 13 June 2017, and participants in this meeting will be invited to the first day of the Regional Expert Meeting on the MIPAA. The Regional Expert Meeting will then take place from 14 - 15 June.

Day One will commence with a high level panel discussion on demographic trends and the future of population ageing in Asia and the Pacific. The following session will describe the progress in implementation of the MIPAA through a presentation of highlights from the ESCAP-administered MIPAA survey results followed by a discussion of the draft Regional Report for the Third Regional Review of the MIPAA. A first reading of the proposed draft Outcome Document for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (12 -14 September 2017) will follow.

The three thematic areas of the MIPAA will be further discussed through panel discussions that reflect on the experiences at country level, including presentations from experts and MIPAA focal points. The panel discussions will discuss progress and the way forward on population ageing in their country and within the context of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Day Two will begin with a panel discussion for the identification of new and emerging regional policy priorities for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and how to close the gap of existing challenges. The final session of the meeting will discuss the draft Outcome Document for the second time.

Participants will be requested to submit recommendations for outcome document formulations in advance of the meeting, and the discussions will focus on ensuring that the most widely agreed, important and practical recommendations are included in the draft Outcome Document that is expected to contain not more than 20 recommendations in total. Within this context, participants will be invited to highlight good practices and guidelines that policy makers can consider while formulating a comprehensive framework that protect and promotes the rights of older persons.

Outcome

It is expected that participants at the meeting will agree on a set of priority actions for policy-makers to bear in mind while addressing population ageing in their countries. These recommendations are expected to take the form of a succinct, 2-3 page document which highlights thematic priorities in the region and modalities for implementation within the context of the MIPAA review process. The recommendations will be considered in the formulation of the Outcome Document for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Documentation

A draft report summarizing MIPAA survey data analysis will be made available at the consultation.

Partners

The meeting is being organized by UN-ESCAP in collaboration with the partner organizations involved in the review process of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including UNFPA, WHO, ILO and HelpAge International.

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing profound and rapid population changes. All countries in Asia and the Pacific are in the process of ageing at an unprecedented pace, although the timing and pace of this transition varies across the region. In 2016, approximately 12.4 per cent of the population in the region was 60 years or older, but this is projected to increase to more than a quarter – or 1.3 billion - people by 2050.

Globally, the older population in less developed regions is growing faster than in the more developed regions. Therefore, older persons will be increasingly concentrated in the less developed regions of the world. By 2050, nearly 8 in 10 of the world's older population will live in the less developed regions. This is especially pertinent for a region such as Asia and the Pacific, which comprises some of the wealthiest nations as well as some of the poorer countries in the world.

The pace of ageing is also more rapid in the developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region and at a much earlier stage of development compared to developed countries, giving them limited time and opportunity to adjust to a needs of an aged society. For example, France and Sweden took 115 years and 85 years respectively to move from an ageing to an aged society, whereas China is expected to make the transition in 25 years, Singapore and Thailand in 22 years and Viet Nam in only 19 years.

Population ageing will lead to profound economic and social changes and will require forward-looking policies and sound social protection systems to allow for sustainable development in ageing societies.

The MIPAA is the global guiding document on population ageing with 3 priority areas:

1. Older persons and development;
2. Advancing health and well-being into old age;
3. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The key objective of the MIPAA is to promote a developmental approach to population ageing through the mainstreaming of older persons into international and national development plans and policies across all sectors.

Since its adoption by the General Assembly in 2002, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) has undergone review and appraisal exercises every 5 years.

The key objective of the MIPAA review process is to track progress and identify gaps and emerging issues in the national implementation of MIPAA, as well as to suggest specific recommendations for accelerating progress in MIPAA implementation in the context of the Asia-Pacific region, specifically:

- Identify progress and gaps in implementation of MIPAA in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Identify factors facilitating progress and obstacles impeding it;
- Hold national consultations to conduct a comprehensive assessment of ageing policy and identify emerging issues;
- Develop a regional framework of action for better, and timely, MIPAA implementation.

The outcome of the regional review is expected to be an agreed regional framework of action to support countries to comprehensively address the remaining challenges in the effective implementation of MIPAA.

The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive development agenda with a focus on reducing inequality and reaching all population groups, including the furthest behind. With its reiteration of the phrase "... for all" in almost all the goals, the 2030 Agenda puts inclusion at the centre of the agenda. Population ageing and older persons are directly or indirectly addressed in several of the goals, and particularly in Goal 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" and Goal 10 "Reduce inequality within and among all countries". Priority directions as specified in the Madrid of International Plan of Action on Ageing are in line with the 2030 Agenda and will facilitate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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