



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
27 April 2013

Original: English

---

## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Sixty-ninth session

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Agenda item 3 (g)

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: Social development**

### Draft resolution

**Sponsored by: China**

**Co-sponsored by: Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore**

### **Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* its resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which, inter alia, it decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the adoption of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Endorses the adoption* of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, keeping in mind specific national conditions;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Bangkok statement;

(b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

---

<sup>1</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/11 (see also ST/ESCAP/2652).

## Annex

### **Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

We, the representatives of the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), assembled at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 September 2012,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration<sup>a</sup> and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>b</sup>

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly encouraged all Member States to further implement the Madrid Plan of Action as an integral part of their national development plans and poverty eradication strategies, and recommended that Member States expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues,

*Recognizing* the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asia-Pacific region and the resultant far-reaching social, economic and political implications of ageing,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, and acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/28 of 28 July 2011 on the modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council encouraged the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, and encouraged Member States and United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to provide support to regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal process and organizing regional conferences to review national review and appraisal results in 2012,

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 67/5 of 25 May 2011 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which the Commission decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012 to provide a regional input to the global review,

*Noting* that one in four persons in the Asia-Pacific region will be over 60 years of age by 2050,

---

<sup>a</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>b</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

*Also noting* the higher proportion of women among older persons,

*Noting with great concern* the vulnerability of older persons, in particular older women, to poverty, social isolation and violence,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved by members and associate members in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action since 2002, including the establishment of bodies to lead and coordinate national efforts towards the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also welcoming* the holding of the Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Beijing in November 2011,

*Further welcoming* the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>c</sup> which reviews progress and identifies gaps in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Recalling* that in "The future we want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives made a commitment to promote a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled,<sup>d</sup>

*Recognizing* that there are many challenges to be addressed regarding ageing, including income insecurity, inadequate social protection, limited capacity of health systems to address the range of chronic conditions facing older persons, the human resource gaps in meeting the needs for elderly care services, in particular, long-term care, and the provision of an age-friendly environment to encourage the active participation of older persons for the betterment of society as a whole,

*Acknowledging* that the rapid demographic transition in Asia and the Pacific presents significant challenges for the region and that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing future,

*Also acknowledging* that the Madrid Plan of Action provides a comprehensive and overarching framework for the preparation for and response to ageing, and the need for accelerated action in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the role of civil society in supporting older persons and Governments on issues related to ageing,

1. *Recommend* that members and associate members:

(a) Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in legal and policy frameworks;

(b) Ensure coordinated multisectoral responses and the mainstreaming of ageing issues into national policies and programmes;

<sup>c</sup> E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.1/1.

<sup>d</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/288.

(c) Increase national awareness, capacity and resources to prepare for and respond to the demographic transition;

(d) Develop inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation;

(e) Accord priority to mainstreaming the gender dimension into national responses;

**A. Older persons and development**

(f) Implement specific national policies and programmes on ageing;

(g) Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans;

(h) Establish or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the rights of older persons and to coordinate resource allocation for ageing;

(i) Encourage and promote the removal of barriers to the participation of older persons in the labour market through legislation, age-friendly and flexible employment policies, training and skills development, and financial support for entrepreneurship;

(j) Establish comprehensive social protection systems for workers in the formal as well as informal sector, including the provision of universal old-age income security through pensions;

(k) Address the special needs of older persons in rural and remote communities, older persons living in poverty, older women, and the “oldest old” (aged 80 and above), to ensure an adequate standard of living for all older persons;

(l) Support the formation of older persons’ associations to provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons;

(m) Enhance representation of older persons in policy formulation and implementation;

**B. Advancing health and well-being into old age**

(n) Adapt health and social systems in response to the needs of older persons through an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care;

(o) Develop policies and models for promoting healthy ageing to support healthy lifestyles, active ageing and the right to health care;

(p) Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for elderly care, emphasizing especially home and community-based care and to improve the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

(q) Allocate adequate resources for the training of caregivers, including informal caregivers and service providers, to address the human resource gaps in meeting the needs of elderly care;

(r) Include geriatrics and gerontology in the training curriculum of professionals in the health- and social-care service sectors;

(s) Strengthen the primary health-care system to address the health needs of the elderly population and social support systems for long-term care, including through formal and informal capacity-building mechanisms to develop and assist health professionals and social care givers;

(t) Encourage community-based and non-profit organizations as well as the private sector to play a major role in the provision of elderly care services and training, in cooperation with government agencies;

### **C. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments**

(u) Create and promote enabling environments to support the active participation of older persons in community and society, including through increased investment in the universal design of housing, public buildings, public spaces and local infrastructure;

(v) Develop public and private partnerships on research and development of more effective products, services, medicines and technology for older persons, including assistive and adaptive technologies to enable older persons to function fully in society, and have access to information and communication;

(w) Pay greater attention to the heightened vulnerability and specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies;

(x) Conduct research on the causes, nature and extent of all forms of elder abuse and violence, and act upon the findings of such research;

(y) Enact laws and regulations to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

(z) Promote a positive image of ageing and of older persons through active engagement of the mass media and the voices of older persons, including recognition of the positive contributions made by older persons to their families, communities and society;

2. *Recommend* that more domestic and international resources be mobilized and, in order to complement national development efforts, international cooperation be enhanced to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

3. *Invite* United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that questions of ageing and older persons are integrated in their programmes and projects, including at the country level;

4. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:

(a) To strengthen the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

(b) To increase the regional knowledge base on ageing to support members and associate members in their efforts to develop evidence-informed national policies on ageing;

- (c) To continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing;
  - (d) To raise public awareness on ageing in partnership with civil society organizations and the media;
  - (e) To support members and associate members, upon request, in formulating forward-looking policies to prepare for and adjust to the social and economic implications of ageing, as well as mainstreaming ageing into national development frameworks, plans and programmes;
  - (f) To assist members and associate members in building capacity to provide comprehensive social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons;
  - (g) To submit the outcome of the Meeting to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session as the Asia-Pacific input to the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, in 2013;
  - (h) To submit the report of the Meeting to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session for consideration and endorsement.
-