



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-fourth session**

Bangkok, 11–16 May 2018

Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda**

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: social development**Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017. Representatives of 28 members and associate members, civil society, international organizations and academia attended.

The Meeting was convened in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/5 of 8 June 2015 on the modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Fifteen years after the adoption of the Madrid Plan of Action, the Meeting served as a key regional platform for reviewing achievements in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the challenges that remained.

The report contains an outline of the proceedings and organization of the Meeting, and, in annex II, a set of priority actions for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is invited to take note of the report and endorse the outcomes of the Meeting as contained in annex II thereto.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 12 March 2018.

** ESCAP/74/L.1.

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The following recommendation of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its information and consideration.

Recommendation

The Meeting recommends 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.

II. Proceedings

A. Review of progress in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in Asia and the Pacific

(Agenda item 2)

2. The Meeting had before it the note by the secretariat on an overview of trends in population ageing and related institutional responses in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/1) and the note by the secretariat entitled “Government actions towards the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: achievements and remaining challenges” (E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/2).

3. The secretariat gave a presentation on addressing the challenges of population ageing in Asia and the Pacific.

4. A panel discussion on the theme “Ageing and aged societies in the Asian and Pacific region: towards an inclusive and sustainable future” was moderated by the Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development of ESCAP. The panel comprised Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; Mr. Bjorn Andersson, Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund; Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, HelpAge International; and Mr. Asghar Zaidi, Professor in International Social Policy, University of Southampton. An open discussion with member States followed.

5. The panel underscored the significance of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, as instruments to overcome the challenges and grasp the opportunities presented by population ageing. It was noted that older persons were a great resource, contributing to economies and societies. Nevertheless, the dramatic demographic changes being experienced across the region and related implications for domains such as health and long-term care called for societies and economies to be redesigned, with strategies to promote decent employment, lifelong learning and social participation for older persons and to make the voice of older persons heard. Furthermore, older persons needed to

be provided with access to pensions, appropriate health care, technology, transport and built environment, including in humanitarian and disaster response.

6. The panel stressed the importance not only of leaving no one behind but of reaching those who were the furthest behind first, in order to address inequality for the current older generation as well as for future generations of older persons. This included tackling inequalities related to gender, access to decent work and associated inequalities of income and earnings, and access to contributory pension schemes that led to inequality in later life. It was noted that political will was key to moving the ageing agenda forward, as were effective use of data, surveys, statistics and indicators and active sharing of good practices.

7. In the subsequent discussion, one country representative stressed the positive role that culture played in and contributed to ensuring the dignity of older persons.

B. Consideration of key regional issues within the framework of the Madrid Plan of Action

(Agenda item 3)

Older persons and development

(Agenda item 3 (a))

Advancing health and well-being into old age

(Agenda item 3 (b))

Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

(Agenda item 3 (c))

8. The Meeting had before it the note by the secretariat on an overview of trends in population ageing and related institutional responses in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/1) and the note by the secretariat entitled “Government actions towards the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: achievements and remaining challenges” (E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/2).

9. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Maldives; Myanmar; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

10. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made a statement.

11. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made a statement.

12. The representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also made a statement.

13. The Meeting noted its continuing commitment to the Madrid Plan of Action as the main international framework to address ageing. Several country representatives expressed their appreciation for and commitment to the periodic review process as a means of ensuring the promotion and reaffirmation of the principles of the Plan of Action, and understanding the status of its implementation. One country representative stressed the importance of addressing ageing in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

14. Country representatives informed the Meeting about the importance of ageing in their countries, including with respect to large increases both in absolute numbers of older persons and in older persons as a proportion of the overall population, and noted that the situation required specific policy action to build societies for all ages. Several country representatives emphasized the need to ensure gender equality in the implementation of policies on ageing, as well as the need to focus on vulnerable groups among older persons, such as older persons in rural areas, older women and indigenous older persons.

15. Country representatives outlined government efforts to adopt appropriate policies, strategies, action plans and laws to guide action to address ageing issues, including combating abuse against older persons, addressing long-term care and employment of older persons, and creating enabling environments, as well as creating structures and networks to ensure coordination between the various ministries of Government and with civil society and the private sector in implementing policies on ageing and ensuring their coherence with overall policy directions. Country representatives highlighted the role of the Plan of Action in guiding the formulation of such responses. Several country representatives described the coordination between national and local government in developing and implementing appropriate policies. Country representatives cited the role of civil society and the private sector in supporting older persons in areas such as skills development and health, including older persons' associations.

16. The Meeting noted the importance of international and regional cooperation, including through regional and subregional organizations, to ensure appropriate responses to population ageing. Several country representatives stressed the importance of sharing of experiences and mutual learning through the process of the global and regional review of the Plan of Action.

17. Several country representatives emphasized the critical importance of providing income security for older persons with a view to reducing old-age poverty and inequality. In that regard, several country representatives reported achievements in relation to coverage of and access to contributory and non-contributory pension schemes. Country representatives also reported steps taken towards combining savings throughout life, providing tax benefits for older persons and ensuring social assistance, as well as offering schemes providing discounted or free access to nutrition, transport and cultural services.

18. Country representatives also identified the need to provide employment opportunities for all, including for older persons who wanted to work. In that regard, Governments in the region had taken positive steps to promote decent work and income-generating opportunities for older persons through measures such as training, labour market information and job search support. One country representative reported that the Government had provided tax incentives to employers that engaged older persons. One country representative reported that the labour force was increasing in spite of the aged society, as a result of policies to include a wider range of population and age groups in the labour market.

19. Country representatives agreed on the need to guarantee access to universal health coverage for all in order to ensure that all older persons have equal access to quality health services. One country representative also highlighted measures to improve the sustainability of the health-care system in order to cope with the increasing pace of population ageing and related increase in health-care costs. Several country representatives reported the provision of health insurance for older persons or the provision of health-care services free

of charge to older persons. In addition, country representatives underscored the importance of healthy lifestyles across the life course, including tobacco control and promoting physical activity, as a means to ensure well-being at an older age. The need to ensure the mental as well as physical health of older persons was also discussed. One country representative called for greater focus on dementia, in line with the World Health Organization Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025.

20. While acknowledging the role of families in providing care to older persons, country representatives noted the importance of providing care services, as well as extending support to caregivers. Several country representatives reported on progress in developing long-term care systems for older persons with public, private and community providers as well as with families to deliver integrated care for older persons. Furthermore, country representatives also reported on focused efforts to develop training programmes and specialized institutes for gerontology and geriatrics to respond to the needs of older persons.

21. Several representatives discussed efforts to support the creation of enabling environments, including through supporting older persons to enable them to age in place and encouraging lifelong learning; reform of building standards to ensure their accessibility; applying the concept of age-friendly cities; providing support, such as training and assistance to caregivers; addressing violence against and neglect and abuse of older persons; promoting positive images of ageing; and preventing ageism and age-related discrimination in the workplace. Improving access of older persons to new technologies was highlighted as a priority by several representatives as a means of promoting their involvement in development as well as of preventing social isolation.

22. The Meeting emphasized the importance of data on population ageing and age-disaggregated statistics as key elements in formulating evidence-based policies and of supporting monitoring and evaluation of programme delivery to assure their efficiency and effectiveness. Several countries reported on ongoing and forthcoming initiatives to gather data, including through specialized surveys and census data in collaboration with United Nations agencies and civil society, and to disseminate such data.

23. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented the Tabriz Statement, the outcome of the Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing, which was held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, in July 2017 and organized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, HelpAge International, and the United Nations Population Fund. In the statement, emphasis was placed on the need to develop integrated and culturally sensitive policy frameworks to address population ageing and the need for social inclusion of older persons and for a long-term perspective in policies on ageing, including current and future generations of older persons.

24. The representative of the UNESCO presented the outcomes of the first MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Asia-Pacific Region, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 23 March 2017 and organized by UNESCO, under the framework of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme, and the Government of Malaysia. Recommendations in the outcomes included increasing research on long-term care systems for older persons including funding, mental health issues of older persons, and pension systems.

C. Consideration of the draft outcome document

(Agenda item 4)

25. The Meeting had before it the working paper entitled “Draft outcome document” (E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/WP.1).

26. The secretariat introduced the outcome document with explanations about its nature and origin of the text.

27. Country representatives discussed the draft outcome document and agreed that it reflected regional priorities and emerging areas for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action for the Asia-Pacific region.

28. The Meeting adopted the outcome document by consensus on 14 September 2017, as contained in annex II to the present report.

D. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

(Agenda item 5)

29. The Meeting adopted the present report on 14 September 2017.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

30. The Meeting was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017. It was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

B. Attendance

31. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tonga; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

32. Representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat attended: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and OHCHR.

33. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended: United Nations Development Programme; UNESCO; and United Nations Population Fund.

34. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

35. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society and other entities attended: Active Ageing Consortium in Asia and the Pacific; AgeWell Foundation; Disabled Peoples’ International, Asia-Pacific region; HelpAge International; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Tsao Foundation; and Zhongshan College of Vocation and Technology.

C. Election of officers

36. The Meeting elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Khandoker Atiar Rohman (Bangladesh)
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Naila Verdiyeva (Azerbaijan)
Mr. Hyangjea Woo (Republic of Korea)

D. Agenda

37. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting:
 - (a) Opening ceremony;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the progress in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in Asia and the Pacific.
3. Consideration of key regional issues within the framework of the Madrid Plan of Action:
 - (a) Older persons and development;
 - (b) Advancing health and well-being into old age;
 - (c) Ensuring enabling and supportive environments.
4. Consideration of the draft outcome document.
5. Adoption of the report of the Meeting, including the outcome document.
6. Closing of the Meeting.

E. Other events

38. The following seminar, side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Meeting:

- (a) 12 September 2017: Financial security of older women from a life-course perspective, hosted by the Tsao Foundation, International Longevity Centre Singapore, with support from ESCAP;
- (b) 14 September 2017: Older people's associations – from community to national policy, hosted by HelpAge International.

Annex I

List of documents

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|---|---|--------------------|
| <i>General series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/1 | Overview of trends in population ageing and related institutional responses in Asia and the Pacific | 2 and 3 |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/2 | Government actions towards the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: achievements and remaining challenges | 2 and 3 |
| <i>Limited series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/L.1/Rev.1 | Annotated provisional agenda | |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/L.2 | Draft report | 5 |
| <i>Information series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/INF/1 | Relevant mandates (resolution) | |
| <i>Working paper series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.2/WP.1 | Draft outcome document | 4 |
| <i>Information available online</i> | | |
| http://mipaa.unescapsdd.org/third-review/intergovernmental-meeting-bangkok-12-14-september-2017 | Information note | |
| http://mipaa.unescapsdd.org/third-review/intergovernmental-meeting-bangkok-12-14-september-2017 | List of participants | |
| http://mipaa.unescapsdd.org/third-review/intergovernmental-meeting-bangkok-12-14-september-2017 | Tentative Programme | |

Annex II

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 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 internationally agreed 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 fundamental 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, disability or other status,

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.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 (III).

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 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”, and noting the Tabriz Statement,¹²

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,

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.

¹² Adopted at the Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, 3–5 July 2017. See <http://ageingasia.org/tabriz-statement-policy-implication-of-population-ageing/>.

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, age and age-related disability analysis as an essential step in planning all development activities not only those intended to benefit older persons;

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

(f) To focus support on older persons in rural and urban 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 and urban areas through access to financial and infrastructure services;

Income security and employment

(g) To promote decent work and re-employment opportunities and appropriate and flexible employment by public and private employers and to provide necessary infrastructure related to income-generating opportunities for older persons in both formal and informal sectors, particularly for older women;

(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 negative 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 policymaking 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 appropriate, 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 and to promote 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 agencies, communities and workplaces through older persons' associations, civil society organizations and institutions in the governmental and non-governmental sectors in order to support the engagement of older persons as active agents of change in their lives and communities;

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

(w) To promote, as appropriate, age-friendly technology and to provide relevant opportunities for individual development, self-fulfilment and well-being throughout the life course through 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 holistic research and development on ageing, including 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, economic, 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 recognition of 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, as appropriate, 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, as appropriate, 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.
