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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Second Regional Review Meeting of the Madrid International
Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
Beirut, 7-8 December 2011

INFORMATION NOTE**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 marked a milestone in international efforts to respond to the challenges of population ageing. It called for changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all sectors, so that the enormous potential of “a society for all ages” in the twenty-first century may be fulfilled. As noted in MIPAA, its “systematic review of implementation by Member States is essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons”¹.

The Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session in 2003 considered the modalities for the review and appraisal of MIPAA and endorsed the bottom-up and flexible approach proposed by the UN Secretariat in its note to the Commission². At its forty-second session in 2004, the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action every five years. The Commission also requested the United Nations regional commissions, within their mandates, to promote and facilitate the implementation, review and appraisal of and dissemination of information about the Madrid Plan of Action at the regional level³.

In its resolution 44/1 of 17 February 2006, the GA called upon Governments to promote the bottom-up participatory approach throughout the entire implementation process of the Madrid Plan of Action, and to undertake national review and appraisal exercises of specific identified areas by using the participatory, bottom-up approach. In addition, the regional commissions were requested to forward their findings of the first review and appraisal, along with identified priorities for future action to the Commission for Social Development. The same resolution also decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal of the MIPAA in 2007 and to conclude it in 2008.

In its resolution 2010/14, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the theme “***Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: social situation, well-being and dignity, development and the full realization of all human rights for older persons***” for the second review and appraisal exercise, and also decided that the Commission for Social Development would conduct the global

¹ MIPAA, paragraph 131. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/a-conf-197-9b.htm>.

² Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.5/2003/7).

³ Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Resolution of the Commission for Social Development 42/1. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/csocd42res1.doc>.

segment of the second review and appraisal at its fifty-first session in 2013. The Economic and Social Council further decided that the procedure of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action would follow the set procedure of the first review and appraisal exercise, and would include preparatory activities at the national and regional levels, including those conducted by the Regional Commissions that conclude in 2012. However, Member States are free to utilize an optional open method of coordination for the review and appraisal, as presented to the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

In response to resolution 44/1, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) convened in Amman on 20 and 21 November 2007 a Regional Seminar on the Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). The main objective of that Seminar was to review the progress in implementing MIPAA, to share experiences and successful approaches and to assist member countries and relevant regional partners in their programmes for older people.

Towards the second review and appraisal exercise and in line with resolution 2010/14, ESCWA, in its work programme for 2011, has developed a road map to carry out four preparatory activities, as follows:

(1) To publish a *Social Policy Brief* on “Reinforcing Social Equity: Mainstreaming Ageing Issues in the Process of Development Planning in the ESCWA Region”. The objective of this Social Policy Brief on ageing is twofold: (i) to highlight the challenges that member states are faced with in their endeavor to mainstream ageing in national development plans, and (ii) to identify policy actions that are needed to reinforce ageing mainstreaming as part of a social equity approach to social development.

(2) To publish a *Regional Report on the demographic profile of the older people*. The objective of this profile is to provide policymakers with a reference that delineates the trends and patterns of changes in the age structure of older persons, and underlines their implications for development.

(3) To request Member Countries to prepare *Country Reports on national follow up to the Implementation of MIPAA*.

(4) To organize a *Regional Review Meeting* in Beirut in December 2011, to discuss the national reports, identify obstacles to the implementation (institutional, structural and circumstantial barriers), and to come up with a set of recommendations that would constitute an agenda for the full implementation of MIPAA.

The underpinning issues in these activities are directly related to the main pillars of MIPAA – i.e., Older persons and development, Health and long-term care, Enabling and supportive environments, and Ageing mainstreaming.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING.

The objectives of the proposed Meeting are as follows:

(1) To review the key developments in the issues of older persons since 2002.

(2) To review and appraise the implementation of MIPAA in the region.

(3) To discuss the national reports and assess adherences of governments to MIPAA.

(4) To identify obstacles to the implementation of MIPAA (institutional, structural, and circumstantial barriers).

(5) To come up with a set of recommendations that would constitute an agenda for the full implementation of MIPAA.

Within the framework of MIPAA, the meeting will pay particular attention to the marginalization of the elderly in the current Arab uprising and the failure of the media to highlight the contribution of older persons to ongoing socio-political developments in the region. It will also focus on the gender dimension and its importance in policies for older persons.

III. PLACE AND DATE.

The Regional Review Meeting will take place in Beirut, Lebanon, 7 and 8 December 2011. The venue of the Meeting will be the UN –House in downtown Beirut.

IV. PARTICIPANTS.

High-level officials and Governments' focal points on ageing of ESCWA Member Countries will participate in the Regional Review Meeting. Representatives from the relevant offices of the United Nations system, civil society and academics are also expected to participate.

V. PROVISIONAL AGENDA.

- Opening of the Meeting.

1. Review of the key developments in the issues of older persons since 2002.

- a. Demographic Profile of the region.
- b. Overall progress made in the implementation of MIPAA.
- c. Arab uprising and the media exclusion of the older persons.
- d. The gender dimension and its importance in policies for older persons.

2. National Reports in line with the Second Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

- a. Second review of priority issues for older persons in the ESCWA Region.
- b. Presentation and discussion of national reports of countries participating in the meeting.

3. Findings and recommendations of the second regional review of MIPAA.

Two working groups will be formed to discuss these findings and recommendations.

- Closing of the meeting.

VI. MODALITY.

The Regional Review Meeting will be conducted during two days. The Meeting will start with the opening statements of ESCWA and the host country. This will be followed by the First Session on "Review of the key developments in the issues of older persons since 2002", which will examine the changing demographic dynamics, the overall progress made in the implementation of MIPAA in the region, the stance of the elderly in the current Arab uprising, as well as the gender dimension and its importance in policies for older persons.

The Second Session is dedicated for "National Reports in line with the Second Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)". It proceeds by highlighting the process of second review of older persons' priority issues in the ESCWA region. Then, each Member Country participating in the meeting presents its national report. This is followed by the discussion of these reports and the assessment of countries' responses to MIPAA priority directions.

The Third Session focuses on the “Findings and recommendations of the second regional review of MIPAA”. Participants in the meeting are divided into two working groups for the consideration of the draft outcome document of the meeting. The first Working Group will discuss the findings of this review, while the second Working Group will discuss the recommendations. The meeting will close with the presentation, discussion and adoption of these findings and recommendations.

Finally, it is important to note that ESCWA will later issue a regional report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, in Arabic and English languages.

VII. COUNTRY REPORTS.

For the benefit of exchanging experience and expertise, designated representatives are invited to prepare a country report of approximately ten to fifteen pages, reviewing the progress made in the implementation of MIPAA in the context of the following priority areas:

- a. Older persons and development.
 - i. Income security, social protection, and poverty prevention.
 - ii. Active participation in society and development.
 - iii. Intergenerational solidarity.
- b. Advancing health and well-being into old age.
 - i. Improving access to health-care services and quality of life.
 - ii. Training of care providers and health professionals.
- c. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments.
 - i. Care and support for care givers.
 - ii. Changing family structures and living environment.
- d. Ageing mainstreaming.

The report should contain information about the promulgation and implementation of policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts. The report should also identify major barriers (institutional, structural, and circumstantial barriers) to the implementation of MIPAA. The report should be prepared in Arabic and in the manner that matches the Guidelines for Reporting on National follow-up to Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Suggested guidelines for preparing country reports are available in Arabic through the following link:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetailsar.asp?referenceNum=1664A>

The ESCWA Secretariat expects to receive hard and soft copies of the report by **25 October 2011** for reproduction and circulation.

VIII. DOCUMENTS

The following background documents will be made available through the designated webpage at: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1664E>.

1. Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).
2. Arab Plan of Action for the older persons. (ESCWA)

3. Guide to the National Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. (DESA)
4. Situation analysis of Population Ageing in the Arab Countries.
5. Provisional agenda.

IX. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING.

At the end of the Regional Review Meeting, the report of the meeting, including a set of recommendations for actions, will be adopted by the participants. The outcome will constitute the region's input to the global review of MIPAA, scheduled to be held in 2013.

X. LANGUAGE

Arabic will be the working language of the meeting.