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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth meeting
Geneva, 1 July 2008

DECISION ON MATTERS RELATING TO UNECE WORK ON POPULATION

Establishment of the Working Group on Ageing

Note by the secretariat

1. At the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (León, Spain, November 2007), several countries expressed concern about the organization of follow-up activities, in response to which a suggestion was made that a working group be created in UNECE with the purpose of reinforcing and continuing the implementation of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS) and the León Ministerial Declaration.
2. According to the Work Plan on ECE Reform, the governance of population activities, including those on ageing, is currently assured by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee discussed, on several occasions subsequent to the León Ministerial Conference, a proposal for establishing an ad hoc working group on ageing. The group is expected to better integrate country-level expertise on ageing into UNECE work and to ensure that UNECE activities in this field continue to correspond to the needs of member States. The already existing network of national focal points, established in the framework of implementation and review of the MIPAA/RIS and for preparing the León Ministerial Conference, will provide a basis for the Working Group. At its twenty-second meeting in March 2008, the Executive Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a formal proposal for its approval.

3. Accordingly, the Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group on Ageing and its terms of reference as contained in the annex.
4. The Executive Committee will look into the question of where the working group should be placed in the institutional structure of UNECE in the framework of the review of UNECE reform in 2009.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

1. The Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body, which is subsidiary to the UNECE Executive Committee.
2. The Working Group is established for a period of two years. It will submit a full report on its accomplishments over the first two years to the Executive Committee. After receiving this report, the Executive Committee will review the activities of the Working Group and decide whether to renew its mandate.
3. The Working Group meets annually. It will be serviced by the UNECE secretariat without the need for additional resources.
4. Members of the Working Group are the representatives of national authorities dealing with ageing in the UNECE member States.
5. The aims of the Working Group are
 - (a) to contribute to the effective implementation of commitments taken by member States at international meetings on ageing, particularly the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) and of the León Ministerial Declaration (2007);
 - (b) to provide direction and guidance to the UNECE work in the field of ageing;
 - (c) to promote international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries;
 - (d) to promote awareness of ageing and its implications throughout the UNECE region;
 - (e) to create synergies within and outside UNECE.
6. The Working Group builds, among others, on the experience and work of the national focal points on ageing.
7. The Working Group cooperates and determines its activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing, to avoid duplication, and to focus on challenges of specific interest to UNECE member States. It promotes cooperation with international organizations and encourages partnership among the public and private sectors in addressing the implications of population ageing.
