



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/WG.1/2008/2
19 December 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

First meeting
Geneva, 1–2 December 2008

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AGEING ON ITS FIRST MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Working Group on Ageing was held on 1 and 2 December 2008 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
2. Representatives from the following 38 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America
3. The European Commission was also represented.
4. Holy See participated as an observer State.
5. Representatives from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna, ECV), the International Institute of Ageing (INIA) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) participated.

6. Representatives of the following 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated: David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, European Federation of Older Persons, Fédération Européenne des retraites et personnes âgées, Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA), the NGO Committee on Ageing, Help the Aged, HelpAge International, International Council of Women, International Network on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, International Federation of University Women and Lastavica. The total number of participants was 79. A full list is available on the meeting website:
http://www.unece.org/pau/_docs/age/2008/AGE_2008_WG01_LoP.pdf

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. Mr. M. Keiner, Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE, made an opening statement. The Working Group approved its agenda as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2008/1.

8. The Working Group elected Mr. M. Hetteš (Slovakia) as its Chairperson and Ms. A. Martirosyan (Armenia) as its Vice-Chairperson.

9. The following delegates were elected to the Bureau: Ms. E. Winkler (Austria), Ms. M. Lambrecht (Belgium), Mr. P. Wija (Czech Republic), Ms. D. Seib (Germany), Ms. V. Matveeva (Kyrgyzstan), Mr. J. Troisi (Malta), Ms. M. Luz Cid Ruiz (Spain) and Ms. O. Krentovska (Ukraine). The Working Group also decided that a representative of NGOs should participate in the Bureau's meetings.

II. INTERNATIONAL ACTION SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

10. The secretariat informed the Working Group about the Working Group's terms of reference and the steps that had led to their establishment. The secretariat also provided a brief account of its ageing-related activities since the León Ministerial Conference.

11. Representatives of UNDESA, the European Commission and OECD informed the Working Group about their activities that are related to the Working Group's mandate.

12. A representative of the European Federation of Older Persons informed the Working Group about ways in which NGOs active in the field of ageing could contribute to the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

13. The Working Group took note of the information provided and acknowledged the adoption of its terms of reference as a basis for practical work.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009–2010

14. The secretariat briefed the Working Group on the rationale of the draft programme of work contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2008/3 and on the financing of the proposed activities. The proposed work programme aims to support implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the León Ministerial Declaration in UNECE member States. Subsequently, the four components of the proposed programme were presented, discussed and decided upon.

A. Monitoring implementation: developing indicators, collecting data, disseminating information

15. ECV presented a proposal on monitoring activities, including the development of further indicators, the collection of data for their computation and the dissemination of the indicators.

16. Based on the presented proposal and the subsequent discussion, the Working Group decided:

- (a) To maintain and further develop the specialized Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy website (www.monitoringRIS.org) as a platform for exchanging experience and disseminating monitoring results;
- (b) To initiate collaboration with the Conference of European Statisticians to coordinate data collection;
- (c) To develop indicators of achievement on gender issues and on long-term care;
- (d) To explore the following issues:
 - (i) Broadening the scope of long-term care indicators to the area of healthy ageing;
 - (ii) Disseminating the monitoring results in a format that is better suited for policymakers;
 - (iii) Ways of developing indicators on participation.

B. Policy briefs with good practice examples

17. The secretariat explained the concept of policy briefs, and delegates from Albania, Belgium and France presented good practice examples that could be disseminated through such policy briefs.

18. The Working Group decided that the policy briefs should be tailored for policymakers and that the briefs should be written in such a way that would also be of interest to the general public. Members of the Working Group committed to supplying good practice examples from their countries.

19. Working Group members suggested several broad topics for the policy briefs, which would be further refined based on the good practice examples provided. The topics suggested were:

- (a) Mainstreaming ageing;

- (b) Gender;
- (c) Health promotion and prevention of disease and accidents;
- (d) Long-term care;
- (e) Participation;
- (f) Older persons as consumers;
- (g) Adaptation of social security systems.

C. Capacity development

20. The secretariat presented proposals for a capacity development workshop and for preparing country road maps for mainstreaming ageing. Representatives of UNDESA, UNFPA and INIA informed the Working Group about how they could contribute to such activities.

21. The Working Group decided to consider the promotion of mainstreaming ageing, evidence-based policymaking and a participatory approach as the main directions in its capacity development activities. Along these lines, a capacity development workshop will be organized in the second half of 2009.

22. The country road maps would be prepared for one or two countries, depending on the availability of funds. Working Group members were invited to express their interest, by 15 January 2009, for implementing such road maps in their countries.

D. Analysis of intergenerational relationships

23. The secretariat presented a rationale for comparative analysis of intergenerational relationships in different cultural and policy contexts, based on research projects that use the data collected in the UNECE Generations and Gender Programme.

24. The Working Group decided to pursue the proposed analysis. It also acknowledged the importance of the Generations and Gender Programme and agreed to promote its implementation.

E. Financing

25. Several delegations (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Slovakia and Slovenia) expressed readiness to contribute to the programme of work financially or in kind.

IV. CONCLUSION

26. The Chairperson presented the summary and decisions of the first meeting of the Working Group on Ageing. The Working Group agreed that its next annual meeting would be held on 23 and 24 November 2009 and that its third meeting would be held on 22 and 23 November 2010. The Chairperson invited the Bureau to meet on 11 and 12 May 2009 in Bratislava.

27. The Chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

* * * * *