

**Report on the
Fulfillment of the Regional Implementation Strategy
of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the
Russian Federation**

Moscow – 2011

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Summary

The evaluation is based on quantitative and qualitative information in official printed publications and also information posted on the official websites of federal and regional government bodies, academic and educational institutions, non-governmental organisations of the Russian Federation and other sources of information.

The following measures have been implemented in order to consistently fulfill the RIS/MIPAA in the Russian Federation for the reporting period (2007-2011):

The development, approval and subsequent implementation of state policies on ageing within the framework of national strategies;

The development of national and regional laws aimed at resolving ageing issues;

The formation of institutional structures providing a cross-sectoral and inter-departmental approach to resolving ageing issues at federal and regional levels;

The development and practical implementation of a set of practical solutions (financial, organisational, information and personnel solutions) within the framework of national projects and federal and regional target programmes aimed at improving social and economic conditions and raising the standard and quality of living for elderly people;

Broad participation in resolving ageing issues in Russia's regions and also a greater active involvement of non-governmental organisations and volunteers.

The actions taken in these areas helped to achieve positive demographic results, raise the level of welfare and social and cultural development of elderly people, improve their health and increase their life expectancy.

Despite the achieved results, the issues associated with the ageing population have not yet been fully resolved. There are still differences in the standard and quality of living of the elderly population in the regional breakdown, both in urban and rural areas. Further work is needed in order to address gender issues amongst the elderly.

The actions of the Russian Federation to resolve the issues of the ageing population will continue as part of the obligations arising from the RIS/MIPAA, taking into consideration the best international and national practices, national priorities and resource capabilities.

Overview

The Report on the Fulfillment of the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is presented by the Russian Federation.

The Report is prepared by the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation – a federal executive body responsible for the development of state policy and legal regulation in the field of demographic policy, social protection of the population and social service of the population.

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The title, basic data and date of adoption or a stage of development of the national strategy, a plan of action or a similar document on measures for ageing issues:

- Concept of the Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation until 2025 (Approved by Decree No.1351 of the President of the Russian Federation dated October 9, 2007)
- Concept of the Long-Term Social and Economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020 (Approved by Order No.1662-r of the Government of the Russian Federation dated November 17, 2008).

1. Methodology

The following methodology is used in this report in order to evaluate the actions taken in the Russian Federation in order to implement the RIS/MIPAA within the framework of ten RIS obligations.

The evaluation was performed by compiling, organising and analysing quantitative and qualitative information in official printed publications and also information posted on the websites of federal and regional government bodies, specialist scientific and research organisations, higher educational institutions and non-governmental organisations of the Russian Federation.

In order to conduct the evaluation, materials were also used that were presented at the request of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation by the regional authorities of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, public organisations and independent experts.

Quantitative information is based on data from:

Federal state statistical observation of Rosstat (centralised and decentralised), which defines the social and economic status of elderly people in the Russian Federation (indicators for demographic development, pension

support, health and social services, employment etc.), including data from forecasts and annual surveys of household budgets;

The comprehensive monitoring of the social and economic situation of elderly people in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in 2010 conducted by the Government of the Russian Federation in conjunction with executive authorities of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation;

The results of sample sociological surveys of the opinion of elderly people conducted in 6 constituent parts of the Russian Federation in 2011;

Scientific research into ageing issues conducted by institutions of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RAMS)

Qualitative information is based on data from:

Laws of the Russian Federation and constituent parts of the Russian Federation regulating relations with elderly people

Resolutions made by the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation and leaders of government bodies of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in relation to elderly people;

Concepts, strategies and target programmes for the social and economic development of the Russian Federation and the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in regard to ageing issues;

Information and analytical materials on ageing issues presented at the request of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation by specialist federal executive bodies and also regional authorities of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

Recommendations for issues of state policy in regard to elderly people received at the Ministry of Health and Social Development from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, All-Russian public organisations, independent experts and specialists in demographics and gerontology;

Letters and other forms of address from the public received at the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation.

In its work to implement the targets of the RIS/MIPAA, the Ministry of Health and Social Development is collaborating with:

Federal executive bodies responsible for issues of implementing state policy in regard to elderly people – the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, the Ministry of Finance of Russia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, the Ministry of Culture of Russia, the Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy of Russia, the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia, Rostrud (the Federal Labour and Employment Service), Rosstat (the Federal State Statistics Service) and Roszdravnadzor (the Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare and Social Development),

State extra-budgetary funds operating in the field of social insurance, pension provision and medical insurance – the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, the Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation and the Federal Fund for Compulsory Medical Insurance of the Russian Federation;

The Commission under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy;

The Coordination Council for Veterans' Affairs under the Government of the Russian Federation;

Committees of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation: on Labour and Social Policy, on Health Protection and on Veterans' Affairs;

The Committee of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on Social Policy and Healthcare;

Commissions of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation on the Development of Charity and Volunteering and also on Social Issues and Demographic Policy;

All-Russian Public Organisations – the Union of Pensioners of Russia, the All-Russian Council of Veterans (Pensioners) of War, Labour, Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Bodies, the All-Russian Society for People with Disabilities and others;

The Russian organisational committee Pobeda;

Human rights commissioners in the Russian Federation;

The Scientific and Medical Society for Gerontology and Geriatrics.

The cooperation of federal and regional authorities with civil society institutions ensures a comprehensive approach to the implementation of state policy in regard to elderly people and the resolution of ageing issues.

2. The National Situation in regard to Ageing Issues

The following trends are characteristic of the modern situation surrounding the ageing of the population in the Russian Federation:

- An increase in the number of residents over the working age (women over the age of 55 and men over the age of 60) in 2007-2010 – from 29.3 to 30.7 million people;

- An increase in the proportion of elderly people in the country's population in 2007-2010 – from 20.6% to 21.6%;

- A sustained gender disparity in the population over the working age. In 2010 there were 1,942 women to every 1,000 men of the age of 60; in urban areas the figure was 1,964 women and in rural areas the figure was 1,889 women;

- An increase in life expectancy – from 67.5 in 2007 to 68.7 in 2009;

- A continued, although declining, higher life expectancy amongst women (in 2007 – 73.9 years, in 2010 – 74.7 years) than men (in 2007 – 61.4, in 2010 - 62.8 years);

- A high proportion of individuals aged 65 and above in the country's population (2010 – 12.9%).

Due to the ageing population in Russia the figures for the demographic burden of elderly people are increasing. In 2007, per every 1,000 people of

working age there were 326 people over the working age and in 2010 this figure was 347 people.

According to Rosstat forecasts, in the coming decade there will be a continuation of the trends mentioned above, which characterise the ageing of the population in the Russian Federation. According to Rosstat's average alternative forecast, by early 2021 the proportion of people over the working age in the total population of the country will increase to 26.4% or 37.4 million people. In 2020 life expectancy for the whole population will be 71.8 years, of which for men it will be 66.2 years and for women 77.3 years.

The emerging trends in ageing, as a complex occurrence in civil society, also reflect the results of consistent implementation in the Russian Federation at federal, regional and municipal levels of laws in regard to elderly people and also measures to maintain the health of the population, prolong the working period of elderly people, reduce levels of disease and mortality and increase life expectancy, which are being implemented in accordance with strategic documents of the Government of the Russian Federation within the framework of the priority national projects *Health* and *Education* and also government target programmes of the Russian Federation.

Resolving ageing issues in the Russian Federation requires that the government and civil society consolidate their efforts. This was expressed in 2007-2010 in the development of laws in favour of elderly people, in the formation of new institutional structures (the Commission under the President of the Russian Federation on the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy – 2010, the Coordination Council on Veterans under the Government of the Russian Federation – 2011), in the provision of government support to socially-oriented non-commercial organisations providing social services to the elderly in the fields of healthcare, social protection, education and others.

3. Review and appraisal of national actions on the implementation of commitments RSI/MIPAA

Commitment RSI (regional strategy for the implementation) 1: To mainstream ageing in all policy fields with the aim of bringing society and economy into harmony with the demographic change to build a society for all ages.

This Commitment is reflected in a number of fundamental documents of the Russian Federation.

The constitution of the Russian Federation states that in the Russian Federation the state provides a support for family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood, disabled and elderly people; a system of social services is developed, state pensions, benefits and other guarantees of social protection are established. At that, everybody is guaranteed old-age social protection, as well as that in case of disease, disability, loss of a bread-winner and in other instances specified by the law.

The Legislation of the Russian Federation states the main provisions of the state policy regarding the issues of the population ageing, including the problems of the elderly in the *Basic Law of the Russian Federation on health protection of citizens*, the *Civil Code of the Russian Federation*, the *Labour Code of the Russian Federation*, the *Family Code of the Russian Federation*, federal laws “On the basics of social service for the population in the Russian Federation”, “On the social service for elderly and disabled citizens”, “On social protection of the disabled in the Russian Federation”, “On veterans”, “On public associations”, “On charity and charitable organizations”, etc.

The Concept of the demographic policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025 (hereinafter – Concept) defines the main targets – stabilization of the population of the country at the level of 142 – 43 million people by 2015 and creation of conditions for its growth – reaching 145 million people by 2025, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and increase in the life expectancy by 2015 to 70, by 2025 – to 75 years.

The Concept defines the principles of demographic policy of the Russian Federation, determines the main directions, objectives and tools of state demographic policy, including:

further improvement of the legislation of the Russian Federation;

inclusion of tasks and measures aimed at the improvement of demographic situation, into federal and regional programs of social and economic development;

taking into account the objectives of demographic policy in the formation of federal and regional budgets, the budgets of extra-budgetary funds, concentration of financial and material resources for the implementation of the main objectives of demographic policy, mobilization of additional extra-budgetary funds for this purpose;

methodological support of the activity of governmental authorities of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation and local self- government of municipalities, aimed at the management of demographic processes;

permanent monitoring and analysis of demographic processes and their application as a basis for adjusting concrete measures of demographic policy;

developments of scientific research in the field of human population.

The Concept of long-term social and economic development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 determines that the most important direction of the transition to innovative socially-oriented type of economic development is the development of Russia’s human potential , which will result in overcoming negative demographic trends, stabilization in the size of the population and creation of conditions for its growth, improvement of the quality of life of the population, increase in the dependence of the size of labour pensions on the salary, increase in the size of pensions with the development of voluntary pension savings; transition to life-long individualized education for everybody; provision of social services for elderly people.

At that, it is planned that during the first stage (2008 – 2012), urgent measures will be taken in demography and public health, aimed at the stabilization of demographic situation in the society, decreasing mortality among able-bodied population; overcoming poverty of pensioners. During the second stage (2013 – 2020) it is planned to achieve a 2-year increase in the life expectancy. After 2020, it is planned to achieve stable demographic rates and further increase the life expectancy of the population.

The Program of anti-crisis measures of the Government of the Russian Federation (2009) determines, that the first and the most important priority is implementing in full social responsibilities of the state before the population and the development of human potential, providing a set of measures for the modernization of a pension system, activation of social support for the population, modernization of health care and education, including structural reorganizations, which are necessary for it.

The Strategy of the development of physical culture and sports in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 envisages a set of measures, which takes into account interests of elderly people, including the development of effective sports and health-improving systems, means and methods, aimed at strengthening health, increase and extension of pensioners' capacity to work and social activity, as well as social and physical adaptation of people with health challenges and disabled people.

Provisions of the above mentioned strategic documents determine the decisions made at all levels of authority and branches of power on the problems of ageing of the population are being implemented consistently.

Programs of political parties, represented in the State Duma (Parliament) of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation take into account the issues of the ageing of the population and contain target guidelines aimed at their solution. The Program of the leading political party "United Russia" contains an item regarding the necessity of consolidation of positive trends in demography, provision of gradual population increase in Russia. Coordinative council has been established in the Presidium of the General council of this party, which provides interaction with associations of elderly people.

Positive practical results of the implementation of strategic approaches of Russia to the issues of ageing have affected the above mentioned data, which characterize the demographic situation in Russia.

Statistic data also indicate other positive results of the implementation of state policy in the field of ageing, describing the situation of elderly people and their place in political and economic life of the country:

in 2007 – 2010 the number of members of Federal Assembly – the parliament of the Russian Federation aged 60 and older, increased from 122 to 174 people, that is practically 1.5 time. The percentage of this age group in the total number of people's deputies and senators increased from 19.6% to 23.6%;

only in 2-year period (2008 – 2009) the number of people aged 60 and older, engaged in the economy of Russia, increased from 2,599 to 2,720 thousand people, and their percentage in the total number of the population engaged in the economy increased from 2.75% to 3.9%. At that, the number and percentage of people aged 60 and older, who are heads (representatives) of bodies of power and managerial authorities of all levels, including the heads of organizations increased from 186 to 251 thousand people, and from 3.75% to 4.8%, correspondingly.

Commitment PCO 2: To ensure full integration and participation of older persons in society.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws based on it, other regulatory acts, as well as legislative acts of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation do not contain any age-discriminative regulations. On the contrary, the legislation promotes integration and participation of elderly people in public life in all possible ways.

There are different forms of appreciation of contribution of elderly people to the life of society in the Russian Federation. Among them, there is rewarding people for their achievements in labour, public and cultural life with state awards, departmental honorable distinctions, conferment of honorable titles of the Russian Federation, providing them additional means of social support from budget funds, (preferential pension provision and taxation, provisions of monthly monetary payments; discounts for communal public services, et al). Employers give incentives to workers, who fulfill their working responsibilities honestly (thank them officially, provide bonuses, award them with valuable presents, honorary diplomas, suggest awarding with titles of the best in the profession).

Promotion of participation of elderly people in social, economic, political and cultural life is stimulated by a system of measures, aimed at taking into account objective opportunities, needs and interests of elderly people. These measures provide for the development of pension system; improvement of healthcare, extension of the range and scale and improvement of quality of social and rehabilitating services rendered; creation of conditions and tools of effective application of social and labour potential of elderly people.

The priority in the sphere of *medical services* for elderly people is providing them, if needed, an access to all forms of medical assistance, medications and medical supplies; geriatric and palliative assistance; rehabilitating and sports and health-improving activities aimed at strengthening of health and prevention of diseases.

In the sphere of providing services for elderly people an important role is played by the system of *social services* of the population which has been established in Russia, it provides social and every-day personal services, socio-medical, psycho-educational, social and legal services, as well as

material support to people requiring it. Facilities of this system provide services to over 15 million people annually.

Among important state and social functions there is providing *services for the delivery of pensions and benefits* to the citizens, who are above the working age. This function is carried out by the “Russian Post” which is engaged in the delivery of pensions and benefits to over 21 million pensioners in 145 thousand settlements of which over 96 % are situated in rural area, remote and difficult to access localities.

Transport accessibility is important for the elderly. In 2009 renovation of passenger vehicle fleet was started in the regions of the Russian Federation, low-floor buses and trolleybuses or means of transport with adjustable floor levels intended for the transportation of the groups of people with limited mobility, including the elderly are being used. The groups of elderly citizens entitled to reduced tariffs for air-service, railway and motor-transport fare are determined by the legislation. *Transport affordability* for pensioners is provided, in particular, by means of realization of social season tickets at a reduced price, which is compensated to transport enterprises from budget funds of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation. Single elderly people over 80 years old, who live on their own, are entitled to benefits for transport fare. In some regions, services of city and suburban transport are provided free of charge.

In the regions of the Russian Federation, measures are implemented with the purpose of providing elderly people, particularly, those with limited mobility, with *communication connections* with the outer world, so that they could find necessary information on the work of different services and facilities (out-patient hospitals, pharmacies, services of social protection, post offices, Sberbank offices, shops, police, domestic services and other organizations) without leaving the house. A special consultation and information service is established in the regions, “hot-line service” is developed. Communication services for certain categories of the elderly citizens specified in the legislation are provided with reduced tariffs.

In order to increase affordability of *socio-cultural services*, reduced prices for tickets are established in most theatres and museums for people of retirement age.

In the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, within the framework of measures of social support for the citizens of older than working age *trade and social domestic services* are rendered by providing them sets of articles of food, selling articles of food at a reduced price, reparation of advanced household appliances, reparation of plumbing and replacement of sanitary equipment. A network of department stores with lower prices has been established and is developed. Networks of social shops, trade organizations and shops of essential commodities with reduced prices intended for low-income elderly people are established in virtually all the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, taking into account regional specifics.

Citizens of the older generation are provided conditions for *practicing physical culture and sports, development of social tourism*. Strategy of the development of physical culture and sport in the Russian Federation for the period until 2020 comprises a package of measures which benefit the interests of elderly citizens, including: development of sports and health-improving programs of practices; creation of conditions for sports and health-improving practices, engagement of volunteers (instructors of physical culture and sports) in the work with elderly people. Regional programs on the improvement of socio-economic situation and improvement of the situation and quality of life of elderly people, financed from budgets of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, provision of sports and health-improving services, sport facilities is to be free or preferential.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, citizens have a right to participate in the control of national affairs, both immediately and through their representatives, they have a right to elect and be elected to bodies of state power and institutions of local government, as well as to take part in referendums.

Elderly citizens are active participants of elections held in Russia. Procedures of participation of elderly people in elections and free expression of their will, in case if there are individual limitations of health, are determined by the legislation.

A Coordination Council for Veterans' Affairs has been established under the Government of the Russian Federation in Russia, – it's an institutional structure in which elderly people and their representatives are engaged in the development of measures of state policy regarding the problems of ageing. 17 out of 35 members of the Coordination Council represent All-Russian organizations of pensioners and veterans and their regional departments.

Promotion of integration of elderly people in the life of community and development of relations between generations is carried out by different tools.

Among such tools which promote establishment of intergenerational connections and transmission of social experience, there are all-Russian, regional, city and district organizations of veterans, established in Russia.

The most mass organizations of veterans are All-Russian Association of Veterans of War (retired), Labour, Armed Forces and Law-enforcement Authorities (the number of its activists is constantly growing all over the country, it is presently 2.5 million people); All-Russian Society of the disabled (the membership of this society is about 2 million people); Union of Pensioners of Russia (an all-Russian public organization, with 1.1 million members) and others.

These organizations interact with bodies of state power in the solution of social problems of elderly people, control the observance of their legal rights, render assistance for elderly people, including that within the framework of special programs. Organizations of veterans implement

different programs intended to form patriotic self-consciousness in the rising generation.

The state supports activities of such organizations. Funds for state support of public organizations and associations of elderly people and veterans as allotted from federal and regional budgets annually. Thus, in 2011, the subsidies assigned for these purposes from federal budget only amounted to 35.4 million rubles.

The Federal Law “On Amending Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation Related to the Support of Socially-Oriented Non-Profit Organisations”, adopted in 2010, provided considerable extension of various forms of state support for socially oriented non-profit organizations, which include, among others, public associations of elderly people. The law provides financial, property, informational, consulting support, support of training, re-training and further training of workers and volunteers; taxes and duties privileges, etc.

Priority lines of financial support of socially oriented non-profit organizations comprise, among others, projects aimed at improvement of quality of life of elderly people (rendering social services for single elderly people living on their own, who stay in stationary institutions of social service, promotion of additional education, socialization and employment of elderly people).

In order to support public associations, as well as to develop activities of volunteers who render social services for the population, including elderly people, additions to the Tax Code of the Russian Federation were introduced, providing non-profit organizations taxation conditions of acquired value taxation for their services rendered on the basis of contracts concluded with the state and with municipalities, which are equal with those for state and municipal organizations; tax exemptions for VAT for certain socially-significant services, volunteers are exempted from taxes on incomes associated with being provided meals and accommodation, as well covering the price of travel to the locality where they carry out charitable activities and back.

The tool which promotes the development of intergenerational relations, is transmission of professional skills and knowledge to younger people by representatives of older generations within the framework of “Mentor” program which is implemented in regions of the Russian Federation. Within the framework of this program, workers of pre-retirement and retirement ages are engaged in production in-depth trainings, conducted at enterprises for vocational schools graduates. Employers are provided compensations of costs from the budget – not only for the trainees’ wages, but for the instructors’ remuneration as well. Thanks to it, along with support of intergenerational connection, it is possible both to develop professional skills of younger workers, to raise the level of their competitiveness in labour market, and to retain older workers’ positions at the labour market. For example, in 2010, 44 thousand instructors were engaged in in-depth training of 72 thousand graduating students.

Promotion of the formation of positive concept of elderly people is achieved by means of a wide range of political, public and cultural events.

In October 2010 a meeting of Presidium of the State Council dedicated to social policy regarding elderly citizens and improvement of quality of their lives was held under the chairmanship of President of Russia Dmitry A. Medvedev. Basing on the results of the meeting, the Government of the Russian Federation, leaders of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation were given concrete assignments, aimed at the improvement of socio-economic situation of elderly people.

State leaders arrange regular meetings with representatives of public institutions of pensioners, veterans and the disabled, visit facilities of social services for elderly people. Mass media – periodicals, television, Internet resources provide broad coverage of information on these meetings.

Leaders of bodies of state power take part in conferences, congresses and forums, held by all-Russian public organizations of pensioners, veterans and the disabled. In the course of these events, different aspects of life and activities of older generations are discussed; basing on the results of these events, resolutions and guidelines aimed at the overcoming of problems are adopted and sent to bodies of state power of different branches and levels.

Formation of positive concept of elderly people, their active stand in life, is also stimulated by International days of elderly people which are held in Russia on a regular basis (October, 1).

The Day of elderly people is celebrated basing on the Decree of Presidium of Supreme Council of the Russian Federation “On the problems of elderly people”. On this day, festivals, conferences and congresses dedicated to the rights and role of elderly people in society, charity concerts, performances, film shows, sports competitions and contests of amateur talents, celebrations in honour of long-lived people and married couples, personal exhibitions of works by elderly people and other events are held. The events held on the Day of elderly people are highlighted by federal and regional mass media.

Federal and regional websites of pensioners have been established in the Internet – “New pensioner”, forums www.pencioner.ru; www.forumpensionerov.ru), those of veterans (www.veteranblag.ru; www.veterancfo.ru), a portal for the elderly “Good Deeds” (www.dobroedelo.ru), et al, giving coverage of life and activities of people of older ages; problems of the elderly and the ways of their solution are discussed, reference information is posted, consultations with experts (lawyers, doctors, psychologists, social workers are organized).

Problems of elderly people are discussed in generally available magazines and journals, such as “Clinical Gerontology”, “Gerontology Advance”, “Labour and Insurance”, “Social work”, “Social Worker”, et al.

Commitment PCO 3: To promote equitable and sustainable economic growth in response to population ageing.

Concept of Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020 approved by the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter - Concept), taking into account the influence of processes of ageing of the population on socio-economic development of the country, defines ways and means for the provision, in long-run prospect (2008 – 2020) of stable growth of well-being of Russian citizens, dynamic economic development, consolidation of position of Russia in world community.

The concept provides the increase of the overall index of standard of life –GNP per capita by purchasing-power parity from US \$13.9 thousand in 2007 to over US \$30 thousand in 2020.

Transition from export of raw materials to innovative model of economic growth is defined by the Concept as a priority line of development of human potential of Russia.

Practical implementation of measures of the Concept provided the achievement of its target goals. Thus, in 2007 – 2010 the number of permanent population of the country increased from 142.2 to 142,9 million; the volume of GNP – from 33,247.5 to 44,939.2 billion rubles.

Economic development made it possible to increase the income level of population and correspondingly, to reduce the scope of poverty. In 2007 – 2010, according to Rosstat (Federal State Statistics Service), the number of population with the income which is under the subsistence minimum decreased from 18.7 to 18.1 million people, and their proportion in the total number of population of the country – from 13.3% to 12.8%. At that, according to the data of a selective research, percentage of men of 60 years and older in the number of low-income population decreased in 2007–2009 from 3.8% to 3.1%, percentage of women of 55 years and older – from 9.6% to 8,6%.

RSI Commitment 4: To adjust the social security system taking into account demographic changes and their social and economic consequences

Financial sustainability of social safety net for the public, including seniors, is ensured by way of accounting for foreseeable demographic changes and their consequences in the development of the federal and regional budgets, as well as budgets of the state off-budget funds for the next year and the planned period, i.e. the 3 year period. At the same time, considering the changes in the number and composition of population, the adopted social obligations of the state, and the level of inflation, the corresponding increase of expenditures under line item “Social Policy” is planned which includes pension provision expenses, social service, and social care for the public, family- and child welfare.

Importantly, even during the global economic crisis the Government of the Russian Federation not only managed to avoid any reduction in financing of the corresponding social programs but – quite the contrary – it adopted a number of measures aimed to fully perform social obligations of the state to the public including senior citizens. During the period in question, the share of expenses of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation and the state off-budget funds as per line item “Social Policy” grew from 25.1% to 35.1%.

In order to further improve financial sustainability of social protection of the public, the insurance principles of its provision are being developed within the scope of compulsory pension-, social-, and medical insurance systems. The Russian Federation has devised the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, the Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation, the Federal Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund, and territorial funds of compulsory medical insurance. In order to increase the revenue side of budgets of the state off-budget funds, the Federal Law dated 2009 “On insurance payments into the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, the Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation, the Federal Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund, and territorial funds of compulsory medical insurance” provides for cancellation of a Unified Social Tax and establishment effective January 1, 2011 of the insurance tariff at the rate of 34% including 26% designated for compulsory pension insurance; 2.9% - for compulsory social insurance in case of temporary incapacity for work and in case of maternity leave; 5.1% - compulsory medical insurance.

Due to ageing of its population, the country is modifying and developing its *system for social protection of the public*, the main source of financing of which is the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation. Development of this system is performed by way of increasing the level and efficiency by both rendering to the public of various social payments and benefits – apart from pensions – in order to increase the living standards of the public, and improving the level of social services rendered to the public.

Social payments and benefits financed from the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation are provided pursuant to certain federal and regional laws to categories of the public (persons with distinguished services in favor of the state, veterans of the WWII (the Great Patriotic War), persons/families in dire economic situations, the consequences of which they cannot independently overcome, etc.). The size of such payments is indexed on an annual basis taking into account inflation, and is differentiated depending on the beneficiary category, assessment of their contribution in the country’s development. Such payments are distributed either as fixed cash amounts or as percentage added to the respective pension amount.

Regional-level payments are designated in order to assist persons in overcoming their difficult real-life situations. As a common rule, their recipients – are low income families and/or low income single citizens whose average income is below the minimum wage established in the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation. The size, types and frequency of such

payments vary by regions. They include nonrecurring or monthly payments, benefits covering housing bills, utility bills, etc.

In order to provide social support to senior citizens that are part of the statutory list of categories, apart from monthly cash payments the state also renders a number of social services which provide for additional and free of charge medical care, prescription medicines, vouchers for health resort treatment, as well as free travel using suburban- and intercity transport to the medical treatment destination and back.

Modernization of organization of *social service* plays a vital role in the development of the social security system for senior citizens.

The state guarantees its citizens their rights – regardless of gender and age – to social services within the state system of social services in the order and on the terms as established by the laws and other regulatory enactments of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Social services are rendered in ambulatory, semi-ambulatory-, and in-patient forms. In the Russian Federation, there are about 4 thousand medical institutions of various forms for senior citizens and the disabled. Every year, these institutions render social services to more than 15 million persons applying for such social assistance.

In 2010, the level of satisfaction of the needs of senior citizens in home social care was 97.2% across the nation; in social and medical services rendered at home – 95.9%, in in-patient hospitals (with permanent stay) - 93.7%.

Home care is most demanded service among the public. It is the best one to meet their needs and – at the same time – it is an economically beneficial form of a social service. Within the home care category senior citizens are offered various services – hygienic, household, economic, medical (bathing, dressing up, assistance in getting up and getting to bed, lifting from bed, delivery of hot meals, medicines, goods, etc.). New technologies of home care are implemented in order to increase the level of satisfaction of the needs of senior citizens, such as “Home hospice,” “Social service,” “Health resort at home,” as well as various types of mobile social services.

A network of in-patient social service institutions is growing. Seniors reside in such institutions on a permanent basis: homes of the elderly, gerontological centers, special homes for senior citizens offering a comprehensive list of social services.

The development of in-patient social services is performed by way of construction of new institutions; primarily, small care centers (designed for 15-50 senior persons) in rural areas, as well as modernization of existing institutions. In order to increase the level and quality of social services rendered to the elderly, private institutions are also contracted within public-private partnerships, as well as non-profit organizations and volunteers.

The key mechanism of ensuring income of senior citizens is the *state pension provision*. In the Russian Federation, there are the following types of

labor pensions: superannuation pensions, disability pension, and survivor's pension.

Men from 60 years old and women from 55 years old with pensionable service of at least 5 years are entitled to superannuation pension in the Russian Federation. Persons that for any reason do not have the right to superannuation pension are appropriated with a social pension.

As at January 1, 2011, the number of pensioners registered with territorial branches of the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation was 39.17 million persons. Of them, 36.56 million persons received labor pensions including 32.46 million persons that received superannuation pensions

In order to increase the living standards of pensioners, the country has adopted and is implementing important legislative resolutions:

- Effective January 1, 2010, the sizes of labor pensions were increased by way of valorization (increase) of pension rights of persons which were acquired prior to January 1, 2002, taking into account the 'Soviet' portion of pensionable service until January 1, 1991.

- A territorial differentiation of the fixed baseline size of the insurance component of superannuation labor pension was introduced. This was achieved by way of application of district-level ratio, the size of which depends on the district (area) of residence (the highest one is in the Russian far north regions and areas equated to such far northern areas);

- In order to improve financial standing of nonworking seniors, additional social payments to their pensions were introduced effective January 1, 2010. Such additional payments are effective when the total amount of material provision of a nonworking pensioner does not reach the minimum wage level established in the relevant constituent part of the Russian Federation.

These measures helped solve the poverty problem relating to pensioners in the Russian Federation.

In order to stimulate formation of pension savings and increase the level of pension provision, a program of the state co-financing of pension savings of insured persons was adopted in 2008. This program applies to persons that pay additional insurance premiums to the funded part of their labor pension.

As of March 1, 2011, more than 4.3 million persons enrolled in the program. This number amounts to 3% of the country's total population. Payments of additional insurance premiums of the program participants total RUB 6.5 billion.

Financial sustainability of the pension system is featured by its steady growth, in absolute and relative terms, of expenses of the budget system of the Russian Federation for pension provision to the RF population. As a result of that, the share of expenses for pension coverage of population in GDP in 2007-2010 grew from 5.8% to 9.9%. The average size of designated/calculated pensions grew from RUB 3,115.5 per month in 2007 to

RUB 5,191.0 per month in 2009, which corresponds to the ratio of 101.6% and 126.6%, respectively, to the living wage of pensioners.

The budget message of the President of the Russian Federation on the budget policy in 2011-2013 provided for the development of the Program for long-term development of the pension system which would ensure socially acceptable level of pensions as compared with wages within the limit upon which social contributions are accrued and, at the same time, which would exclude the possibility of further increase of the rate of social payments. The President decreed to create condition by 2020, which would ensure that the pension size is at least 40 per cent of the pensioner's previous wages. At the same time, the country's leaders have many times noted the lack of objective necessity to increase the pension age in the Russian Federation in the near future.

The issue of establishment and development of the regulatory frameworks for private and professional pension systems was regulated by the Federal Law No. 75-FZ dated May 07, 1998 "On private pensions funds" (version dated July 11, 2011).

RSI Commitment 5: To ensure that labor markets have the possibility of reacting to economic and social consequences of population ageing

The labor policy of the Russian Federation fully accounts for the processes of population ageing. The labor legislation of the Russian Federation as a general rule does not allow for any direct or indirect restriction of rights or establishment of any direct or indirect advantages when concluding any employment agreement on the merits of age. The upper age threshold (the maximum age) – 65 – is stipulated only for certain categories of workers – persons employed by any government or municipal authorities, military servants, judges and prosecutors.

The pension legislation of the Russian Federation provides for the right of working pensioners to receive income/wages for their work and, at the same time, to receive their full-sized pension. In case of persons that perform any work and/or any other activities after the funded part of their superannuation labor pension was assigned to them, the size of such pension is recalculated once every three years taking into account additional pension accruals.

Thus, there is a legal framework in place which not only enables but also stimulates participation of senior citizens in labor activities.

Labor provision to seniors is an important task of the state policy of the Russian Federation. Its significance is high both from the standpoint of ensuring income to senior citizens, utilization of their educational and labor potential in favor of the national economy, and from the standpoint of socializing of seniors, their integration in social life.

The labor policy pursued in the Russian Federation accounts for the population ageing processes. The results of implementation of this policy

include sustainable growth of the number of working persons above the active working age including pensioners.

Currently there are 12.4 million pensioners employed in Russia which accounts for some 18% of the total work force, of which nearly 9 million workers (72.6 % of the number of working pensioners) are persons above the active working age (men above 60 and women above 55 years old). In the eight years of implementation of this policy, the scale of employment of pensioners in the Russian Federation doubled. In 2002, one in every six pensioners continued their work upon retirement, while currently – every third pensioner chooses to do so.

At the same time, according to Rosstat, over 400,000 nonworking pensioners would like to work, are looking for work, and are prepared to start working.

Assistance in employment to preretirement age and retirement age persons is performed in accordance with the Federal Law of the Russian Federation “On Employment in the Russian Federation” (hereinafter – the Employment law) under the auspices of regional programs of employment promotion financed from the regional budgets.

Preretirement age- and retirement age persons have the right to seek assistance in searching for a suitable job, free consultation, free access to information and services relating to professional guidance by vocational guidance agencies in order to help them choose their field of activity (profession), employment, and possibility of professional training (advanced training).

In case *preretirement age* unemployed persons apply to vocational guidance agencies relating to their place of residence, such persons are guaranteed free state services in terms of professional guidance, retraining and advanced training, psychological assistance, social adaptation on the labor market, as well as in terms of ensuring temporary employment of unemployed persons having difficulties finding a job

In accordance with the Employment law, preretirement age unemployed persons having difficulty securing a job and those dismissed due to liquidation of their employer (entity) or those dismissed due to headcount reduction are entitled (provided such persons agree) to a preterm pension (two years prior to the age which entitles to superannuation retirement including assignment of a superannuation labor pension but not earlier than two years prior to the corresponding age).

Pension age persons are assisted in searching suitable jobs; they are offered social work (for instance, soft landscaping, development of aesthetic forestry, garbage/litter collection in parks and recreation areas, repairs of social and cultural sites, healthcare institutions, growing vegetables for social institutions).

In H1 2011, the Russian employment services assisted in employment of:

- 51.1 thousand preretirement age persons (41.7% of the total number of persons of this age category that applied for assistance in job search),
- 31.1 thousand retirement age persons (35.5% of the total number of persons of this age category that applied for assistance in suitable job search.
 - 10.3 thousand unemployed persons were offered temporary employment (9.0% of the number of unemployed persons of this age category that are registered with employment offices of the Russian Federation);
 - Preterm pensions were assigned to 15.7 thousand unemployed preretirement age persons.

Under the auspices of the state policy of assisting seniors in employment in the Russian Federation, special forms of psychological and vocational guidance were included in the regional programs of employment assistance, as well as special programs for professional training of retirement age- and preretirement age persons wishing to continue their employment.

RSI Commitment 6: To promote continuous training and adapt the education systems to changing economic, social, and demographic conditions

In 2007-2009 under the auspices of the *priority national project “Education”* the Russian Federation implemented the tool for the state support of professional training for blue-collar- and white collar workers for high-technology manufacturing facilities in the state educational institutions – primary vocational and secondary vocational education institutions.

The strategic task of the project was to gradually eliminate gaps in the structure, scope, and quality of training of qualified workers and mid-level specialists as compared with the relevant requirements of competitive enterprises of various industries of the new economy. This was done by way of identification, support and ensuring development of the state educational institutions of primary- and secondary vocational education which implement innovative educational programs.

All the educational institutions have implemented modern forms and methodologies of education due to changing manufacturing technologies and equipment/machinery. A new format of institutional relations between business entities and educational institutions was developed – public-private partnership. Innovative educational programs of the institutions that won the relevant contests were used in order to improve the mechanisms of interaction with employers.

The 2011-2015 federal purpose educational development program was developed accounting for the current demographic situation in the country. The purpose of the program was to ensure access to quality education which meets the requirements of innovative and socially-focused development of the Russian Federation.

The list of tasks of the Program includes modernization of general secondary education and preschool education as a social development

institute, as well as bringing the contents and structure of vocational education in line with the needs of the labor market.

One of the most important target indicators of the Program is the level of affordability of education in accordance with modern standards for all categories of persons, regardless of their place of residence, social and property status, and health condition.

Inclusion of senior citizens in the educational process is an effective mechanism for supporting their social activities. The right to education – one of the basic human rights – is not restricted in the Russian Federation in terms of gender or age, which provides for the possibility of continuing education at senior age.

Education of the elderly is performed by higher vocational educational institutions which report to various departments and ministries. These educational institutions are both public and private and are located in all constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

In order to preserve, develop and rationally use the social and labor resources, higher vocational educational institutions of the Russian Federation have developed and implement professional advance training programs for seniors. These programs focus on different disciplines and utilize various technologies including distance learning.

Training programs for seniors are special in terms of their focus on the seniors' knowledge, interests, their physical and intellectual capabilities.

Professional training and retraining of preretirement age persons is performed using the premises of educational institutions of various levels.

Vocational educational institutions of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation have the necessary material and technical equipment, personnel, information and methodological resources necessary for additional education, advanced training, vocational retraining programs, and they are suitably licensed for such educational activities. The education is offered in a number of disciplines which are in high demand on the labor market.

As of today, the number of seniors willing to take classes significantly surpasses capabilities of such higher- and secondary vocational educational institutions.

In order to increase the level of satisfaction of the needs of seniors in terms of educational services, regional programs of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation aimed to increase the living standards of seniors incorporate the following issues pertaining to:

The development in association with the relevant regional employment office of measures to assist seniors in job search and placement including employment of active seniors to fit their areas of interest, retraining in new professions and activities;

Setting up computer classes and clubs for senior citizens at senior centers, assistance in teaching them computer skills and Internet user skills.

In order to staff educational institutions with competent instructors focused on working with seniors, teacher training colleges and institutes are

recommended to provide for the development of training modules aimed to deliver the required professional competences across the following majors: Gerontological educator, gerontological psychologist, as well as to develop programs for advanced training and vocational retraining of educators in the aforesaid majors.

Active seniors have an obvious need for education. In order to implement new forms of free education and to expand the range of services rendered by social care centers to senior citizens and the disabled, more than one half of all regions of the Russian Federation established the so-called “third age universities” which offer educational programs to about 10,000 ‘senior’ students per year.

Such universities represent a set of educational programs tailored to the needs of senior citizens. The courses offered are socially significant. Each training course of such universities has a particular curriculum and is designed for a certain period of time (normally, 1 to 3 months).

The main tasks and objectives of such universities for seniors include setting up intellectual communications and cultural recreational activities, enhancement of active stance towards social, cultural and economic life of the society in general, reduction of psychological stress, stimulation of engagement in various activities, and teaching basic computer skills.

Curricula of the universities include so-called ‘service clubs’ and educational centers. Educators include members of regional branches of the Union of Pensioners of Russia, public institutions of the disabled, specialists of the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, representatives of various educational, cultural, and social institutions.

‘Third age universities’ offer such departments as ‘Basic computer skills’; creative departments (‘Social and legal,’ ‘Healthy lifestyle,’ ‘Historical,’ etc.); sports departments aimed to educate and engage in physical exercise, health improvement initiatives and events, and to promote healthy lifestyle among seniors. Professional athletes, sports veterans, gerontologists act as sports instructors and trainers.

Senior citizens are also offered classes in using mobile phones, cameras, video cameras, modern appliances and devices, as well as hairdressing master classes.

The department of ‘Basic computer skills’ offers classes called ‘The state and municipal services.’ Students of this class learn the basic skills of using the state and municipal services portal, official websites of the executive authorities of the constituent parts and administrative municipal entities of the Russian Federation, as well as the so-called electronic government portals of the RF regions, etc.

It is planned to further develop such universities across all the RF regions using regional budget funds and using the premises of social service institutions and cultural institutions.

Computer classes for seniors are set up virtually in all constituent parts of the Russian Federation. These classes are physically located in social care

centers and institutions. The first experience with such computer classes for seniors suggests that they helped improve self-esteem of the senior students. They also helped them feel they are meaningful members of our modern information society.

RSI Commitment 7: To ensure living standards for any age groups and to preserve independence including proper health and welfare

Increasing living standards of the population is one of the priorities as stipulated for by the strategic documents of the Russian Federation – the Concept for Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation until 2025 and the Concept for Long-term Socio-economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020.

The progress in this direction has been consistently made by way of implementation of a set measures on the federal and regional levels – financial, organizational, and information measures.

In the formation of the federal, regional, departmental budgets, and budgets of the state off-budget funds, sustainable increase (even during the global financial and economic crisis) of financing of healthcare and social policies is provided for (pension and social support, social services for the public).

As a consequence, the amount of expenses allocated to these two items of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation and budgets of the state off-budget funds in 2007-2010 grew from RUB 4,102.9 billion to RUB 7,886.5 billion (1.9 times), while their share grew from 72% to 77.9%, respectively.

Considering equal rights of the RF citizens to social services in these areas and the share of persons above the active working age of the total population, which by early 2010 reached 21.6%, it is expedient to say that the corresponding share of public spending is being allocated for the provision of the level and quality of their living.

The result is the increasing level and quality of living including living standards of senior citizens. The integral indicators of these positive changes include the growth in life expectancy, as well as reduction – in absolute and relative terms – of mortality rate among seniors. For example, in 2005-2009 in Russia the total number of deceased persons aged 65 and above reduced from 1,328 thousand persons to 1,213 thousand persons. Over the same period of time the age ratios of mortality of persons aged 65-69 reduced from 36.9 pro mille to 32 pro mille, while for those aged 70-74 – from 53.5 pro mille to 45.6 pro mille, and for those aged 75-79 – from 78.9 pro mille to 70.7 pro mille, respectively.

In order to solve the ageing problem the country employs intersectoral interaction by way of:

- Discussion of draft legislation with representatives of legislative and executive authorities, civil society institutes including discussions of the most

urgent and important issues using the Internet as a medium of public discussion. One example is a public discussion in 2011 of the Federal Laws “On the principles of healthcare in the Russian Federation,” “On social services to the public.” These discussions involved a number of new forms including those pertaining to the problems of senior citizens.

- Participation of representatives of the government authorities, business community, public and scientific entities, independent experts in the development of resolutions and recommendations adopted under the auspices of all-Russian and regional conferences, meetings, congresses, forums devoted to issues of socio-economic development, demography, and gerontology.

Even distribution of social institutions and their equal accessibility across the national territory is ensured by way of application of the relevant provision standards in urban development depending on the population. These standards relate to healthcare institutions, social care, sports, educational, and cultural institutions.

In order to ensure equal rights and opportunities for obtention of the state social aid in the form of social services including provision of medicines and medicine-related products, the federal standard for financial spending is approved on an annual basis. This standard fixed the amount of financing per month and per citizen.

Under the auspices of the State program “Information Society (2011-2020),” in order to improve the living standards and accessibility and affordability of medical care services an electronic system for medical accounting and electronic medical patient card is being developed. A transition from rendering the state services to rendering municipal services is underway. This includes healthcare services rendered in electronic form. Electronic databases of recipients of social services are formed by the executive authorities of the Russian Federation.

In order to improve affordability of medicines for rural population, the Federal Law “On circulation of medicines” approves – effective September 1, 2010 – sales of medical drugs by healthcare professionals that received additional vocational education, in case there are no drug stores in the relevant rural area (village).

In order to prevent negative consequences of price increase, in accordance with the Federal Law “On circulation of medicines” prices for drugs included in the list of vitally important drugs are regulated by state.

In order to increase accessibility and affordability of medical services a Federal law “On compulsory medical insurance” was passed in 2010. This law entitles a Russian person to choose a medical insurance entity, a healthcare institution, and a physician pursuant to the compulsory medical insurance policy which is valid in the territory of the Russian Federation.

As stated above, in order to increase affordability of social services to seniors, a number of in-patient social care institutions are being commissioned, the scale and scope of home services are being enhanced.

Small-scale senior centers are being opened in rural areas. The system of mobile social services is being developed (including the so-called ‘social taxi’ services, etc.).

Coordination and integration of services rendered to senior citizens is provided by the regional programs aimed at increasing the living standards of seniors (hereinafter – regional programs). These programs were launched in 2011 in all the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

The regional programs offer a wide range of initiatives encompassing the entire range of social activities for seniors, aimed to stimulate their involvement in social life, preserve and develop their intellectual potential, preserve their health condition, optimize their environment, and expand/enhance their communications.

A system of target indicators was devised in order to control the progress of these programs. These indicators provide for:

Ensuring coverage with social services of at least 90% of the total number of seniors that require such social services;

Creation of conditions for extension of life expectancy of seniors permanently residing in social care institutions (senior centers, etc.) on average to 72-74 years;

Increase 1.5-3 times the number of senior citizens receiving social services using in-patient-substituting technologies (“Foster family,” “Social welfare service,” “Health resort at home,” “Hospice at home,” etc.) which enable to cut costs and reduce the queues of applicants for in-patient institutions.

RSI Commitment 8: To account for gender factors of the ageing society

The Russian Federation is one of the few countries in the world where gender equality has been fixed in the national legislation since 1917.

The most comprehensive and efficient use of women’s potential for quality development and modernization of the country which enables to fully realize their possibilities in both family life and professional life is one of the priorities of political and socio-economic tasks of the Russian Federation.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation establishes the state guarantees of gender equality of human rights and freedoms, as well as dual standards for gender equality: men and women have equal *rights and freedoms* and have equal *opportunities* for their realization.

In accordance with the Constitution, “A man, his/her rights and freedoms represent the supreme value. Recognition, compliance and protection of rights and freedoms of the RF citizen and person is the state’s obligation.” The Constitution prohibits adoption of any laws which cancel or lessen the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen.

The principle of gender equality is accounted in the RF legislation – the RF Civil Code, Family Code, and Labor Code. The RF Criminal Code recognizes any violation of rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of a

person and a citizen as discrimination, regardless of gender. The violators are penalized by mandatory monetary penalties or civil works. Alternative punishment includes imprisonment for the term of up to two years.

The Russian Federation ratified and consistently exercises the norms of ILO Convention No. 100 on equal remuneration of men and women for equal value labor (1951), and ILO Convention No. 111 regarding discrimination in areas of labor and employment (1958), ILO Convention No. 156 on equal opportunities and equal attitude towards working men and women.

Russia has a working mechanism protection of human rights: The Constitutional Court annuls unconstitutional laws; the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Arbitration annul unlawful regulatory enactments. The Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation and the Ombudsman for the Russian Federation actively protect human rights. The state labor inspectorates perform necessary supervision and control over compliance with the labor legislation in the RF regions.

The legislation developed over the past several years in the Russian Federation in terms of policy and economics aims to create the framework for the development of gender-focused and gender-balanced policies.

The main objectives of these policies in Russia include:

- Assistance in compliance with women's rights in combination with men's rights and freedoms;
- Ensuring conditions for full-fledged participation of women and men in decision making at all levels of management;
- Assisting in ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities on labor markets, in areas of business activities and finance;
- Provision of healthcare services to women and men, and increasing life expectancy;
- Establishment of conditions for active participation of men in upbringing children and household management;
- Prevention of any forms of violence with regards to women and men.

The official information base for identification and analysis of gender and age problems included the census data, the state statistical observations, random studies of households, employment studies performed by Rosstat. The Russian gender statistics is one of the most important tools enabling to account for specificities of women and men as specific socio-demographic groups in the development of the optimum social and demographic policy and implementation of the principles of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men.

The gender statistics data are placed on Rosstat website at www.gks.ru, they are also published in statistical reports called "The Russian Demographic Annual," "Women and Men in Russia," "Family in Russia," etc.

Implementation of the gender policy in Russia yields tangible positive results. The women's average life expectancy is practically 20% higher than

that of men. Women account for majority of the Russian government employees; they are becoming ever more active in the legislative authorities, political parties, and public entities.

Among senior level professionals employed in the Russian economy two thirds are women. Among senior government and municipal officials, the share of women has been steadily growing. In 2008-2010, this indicator grew from 37% to 39%.

In the Russian Federation, women are in charge of three key federal ministries that serve basic needs of the population – the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry of Economic Development, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The statistics suggest that in 2002-2010 the country's population trends by gender were equal, while the share of women remained virtually unchanged – 48.7% - 48.8%. However, in terms of persons above the active working age (men above 60 and women above 55) the number of women grew faster in the period than the number of men. As a result, in terms of seniors the share of women grew from 68.8% in 2002 to 72.2% in 2010.

The current demographic trends suggest that gender issue persist in terms of employment of senior women (lower level of economic activity as compared with men, higher unemployment rate), as well as in terms of remuneration/wages (in 2009, the level of remuneration to women aged 60-64 was 71% as compared with the level of remuneration of men aged 65 and above 65 - 65%).

Gender issues are solved on the federal level within the scope of the national project “Health,” the Program of the state guarantees of rendering free medical care to the Russian Federation citizens, the 2011-2015 state program “Affordable environment,” under the auspices of regional programs for promotion of employment and programs aimed at improving living standards of senior citizens.

RIS Commitment 9: To provide support to families caring for old people and to strengthen solidarity between generations and within a generation

As previously noted, the Constitution stipulates that the Russian Federation shall provide state support for families, mothers, fathers and children, the disabled and elderly people.

State support for families is of a comprehensive nature, provides direct cash payments (benefits and subsidies) and indirect social transfers (tax deductions) and is of a gender-oriented nature.

Since 2007, a new set of measures on state support for families with children have been implemented. The most important included the introduction of parent (family) capital and a significant increase in the monthly allowance for child care up to the age of 18 months. Connecting these activities to the order of the birth of children is of particular importance,

since dedicated stimulation of second and subsequent births forms the basis for future extended reproduction of the population.

In addition to the state support measures for families with children at federal level constituent parts of the Russian Federation provide additional cash payments: monthly child allowance, monthly child support for single mothers, child benefit from large families, to disabled children, as well as benefit for families where parents are disabled.

Pension legislation of the Russian Federation stipulates certain guarantees and privileges for people with children. Women who have given birth to five or more children and raised them until they reach the age of 8, as well as several other categories of mothers, have the right to early retirement at age 50 if they have worked the required amount of years.

State authorities of the Russian Federation provide social assistance to needy families at the expense of their own budgets in the form of subsidies for housing and communal services, and by providing social services and essential goods, as well as dedicated social assistance in the framework of social contracts (social adaptation contracts).

The Family Code defines the responsibilities of adult children caring for disabled parents, and in exceptional circumstances (serious illness, injury of a parent, or the need to pay for nursing care for him etc.) to bear additional costs brought about by these circumstances.

Relations arising in connection with establishing, implementing and terminating the ward and guardianship of the incapacitated or not fully competent citizens, including elderly people, regardless of age and gender, are regulated by the Civil Code of the Russian Federation and the Federal Law "On the guardianship."

In order to improve social protection of disabled citizens, the Presidential Decree of 1 July 2008 introduced monthly compensation totaling 1,200 rubles for unemployed able-bodied carers of the elderly, who need to go to a medical institution for continuous care, or under the age of 80 years, as well as the disabled, regardless of gender. Compensation payments are established for one non-working able-bodied person in respect of each designated disabled citizen for the period of care. The amount of compensation payments for people living in the Far North and equivalent areas with harsh climatic conditions, who require additional material and psychological expenses to live there, is increased by the appropriate regional coefficient used for these areas. Legislation adopted in the Russian regions establishes social support to care-providers for older person in addition to federal measures.

The need for nursing care at home for senior citizens living alone has necessitated the development of such a form of social service as a "host family" for an elderly individual. Laws and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation stipulate the admission into a family of elderly people who have partially or completely lost the capability of meeting their vital needs, and therefore are in need of permanent assistance. Admission is

voluntary and is made a contract between the parties. The contract specifies the conditions of care, types and amounts of services provided, the period for which the citizen is taken into the family, the order and cost of meals and other services contributed by the person in the family's budget, the rights and obligations of the parties, and grounds for terminating the contract, as well as other conditions determined by the parties. Individuals in a family taking in an elderly person are paid a monthly fee by the State, the amount of which varies according to regions of the Russian Federation. Social security authorities conduct systematic inspections of the living conditions of people in a foster family.

Foster families provide an opportunity for older people to lead a normal life and at the same be socially protected. In addition, they allow us to resolve problems of loneliness, psychological discomfort, feeling of worthlessness, despair, and helplessness faced by many single older people.

RIS Commitment 10: To facilitate fulfilment of the Regional Implementation Strategy through regional cooperation

In April 2009, by decision of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) in St. Petersburg at the St. Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology of the Northwest Department of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, the IAGG Collaborating Centre was established. The objectives of the Collaborating Centre include organisation of educational research and training programmes, support for and cooperation with similar centres in other regions, international development and education, as well as specialised training and publication of informational materials.

In 2009, on the basis of the Institute a representation was established in IAGG European Region for coordination of the Gerontological Society of Eastern Europe. In the framework of the representation, a special issue of international scientific journal Biogerontology was prepared, containing review articles of national gerontological societies in Europe.

At the opening ceremony of the VII European Congress of IAGG in Bologna in 2011, medals and honourable diplomas were awarded to: in biology: to the President of the Gerontological Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor V.N. Anisimov, for clinical gerontology to the Honorary President of the European Branch of IAGG, Professor M. Passeri (Italy), and social gerontology to the Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology at the University of Sheffield, A. Walker (UK).

In April 2011, at a congress in Bologna, Prof. V.Kh. Khavinson was elected President of the European Division of IAGG.

In 2010, by decision of the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the St. Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, was granted special consultative status with ECOSOC.

An example of positive regional cooperation to facilitate implementation of RIS is the work from 1999 to the present of Russian-Austrian working group on cooperation in the social sector, including representatives of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development and administrations of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation on the one hand, and the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and the protection of consumer rights in Austria and the Austrian Länder on the other.

The Working Group meets twice a year, alternating between Russia and Austria. The purpose of these meetings is to exchange experience between the Russian and Austrian experts, which is helpful for improving the social system. Much of the working group's activity is devoted to issues of social protection of older people (standardisation of social services, hospital social services, home-based social services for older people).

In the framework of humanitarian assistance programmes with participation of donors from Finland, Germany, Sweden and other European countries, social protection bodies of the Russian Federation are receiving goods to support the lonely, the poor and elderly patients.

4. Conclusions and Future Priorities

In the Russian Federation, RIS/MIPAA in the Russian Federation for the reporting period (2007-2011) is implemented by improving legal, institutional, organisational and financial arrangements.

Public policy on ageing is realized in the framework of strategic documents adopted at the federal level: the Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation to 2025, Concept of Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation to 2020, and similar documents adopted at regional level.

The population ageing in the Russian Federation creates the need to engage in an ever increasing scale of considerable financial, material and labour resources for implementation of public policy for the elderly, and provide a decent standard and quality of life through:

material support:

medical care and medicinal supplies;

social services;

provision of available environments, including educational, social, cultural and recreational services;

employment assistance.

Problems of ageing populations are resolved within the framework of national Education and Health projects, federal and regional programmes, including employment programmes and regional programmes to improve the quality of life among older people.

Legal and organizational conditions have been created for non-governmental organizations and volunteers to expand participation in resolving the problems of ageing, as well as attracting businesses to provide social services to senior citizens.

The result of the measures taken include positive demographics, as well as welfare, social and cultural development and social activity of older people, improving their health and increased life expectancy.

At the same time, the challenges of ageing populations will continue to be addressed in the future. These include overcoming existing differences in living standards, and the level and quality of providing services to the elderly population's health, education and social protection at regional level, in urban and rural areas. Work will continue to assist employment and gender issues for older people.

The Russian Federation will continue to implement the obligations arising from the RIS/MIPAA.

It appears that the effectiveness of this work will contribute to the development of indicators for objective evaluation, conducting comparisons between countries and analyse the implementation of RIS/MIPAA commitments.