



Making  
participation  
meaningful

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# Participatory policymaking

- A process to transform policy making by using a **multi-stakeholder approach**
- Encourages **active citizenship, transparency and accountability**
- **‘New democratic spaces’**
- Premise – that citizens and other stakeholders take an **active role in policy processes** at an **early stage**
- **Invited spaces** promotes participation through policy action by governments
- **Claimed spaces** are often created by those who are more marginalized



# Continuum of participation

- Contribution
- Information sharing
- Consultation
- Cooperation and consensus building
- Decision making
- Partnership
- Empowerment



# Tools



**INFORMATION  
SHARING TOOLS**



**CONSULTATION TOOLS**



**ACTIVE PARTICIPATORY TOOLS**



# Fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS





# Things to consider for meaningful participation in MIPAA

- Governments, civil society and older people working together
- Include diverse voices
- Consider the types of participatory tools being used
- Consider power relations
- Closing the feedback loop
- Focus on empowerment
- Not just a 'one off'



- Older people
- Governments/ministries
- Local authorities
- NGOs
- Older people's associations/committees
- Community groups
- Care homes
- Service providers
- Academia



# Who else should we be targeting?



- Older women's networks
- Disabled people's organisations
- Older migrants
- Older people living in a range of care settings
- Carers
- People living with dementia
- Indigenous populations
- Intergenerational representatives
- Older people living in poverty
- Older people in rural areas

Consider what approach



# Role of civil society

- Access to a range of perspectives
- Sharing information with decision-makers and providing spaces for older people
- Support older people to take an active role in discussions and decisions about services and policies
- But, need to be careful about speaking on behalf of older people
- Need to consider who's voices are being heard (usual suspects?)
- Representative voices?
- Ageing networks/coalitions

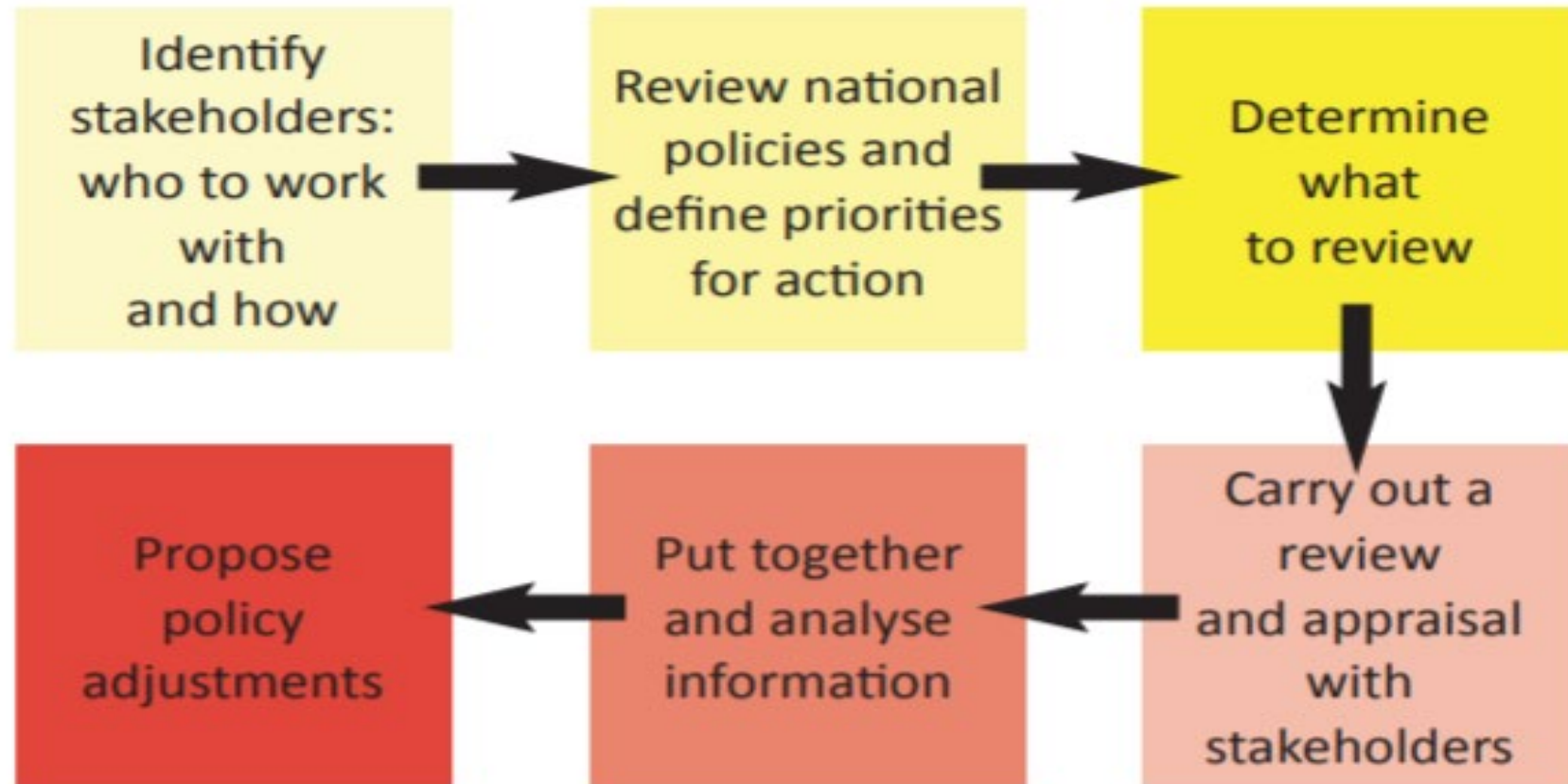




# Governments

- Governments can invite, facilitate, provide space
- May have more resources to facilitate surveys/focus groups
- National focal points of ageing organize and coordinate stakeholders

# Steps involved



Source: Adapted from: *United Nations. Guidelines for Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. New York, 2006, p. 18.



# Benefits of a collaborative approach

- Broadening of policy- and programme-relevant information sources (in-depth qualitative data to complement quantitative data)
- Priority-setting of policies and programmes that reflect the interests of the primary stakeholders
- Opportunities for marginalized participants to analyse and articulate their situation with other stakeholders. This promotes partnership in working for realistic change



Final things to  
consider..