

UNECE MIPAA+20 Webinar Series
Healthy and Active Ageing in a Sustainable World: Synergies between
international initiatives on ageing – one reporting exercise
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COVID-19 response and lessons learned

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Impact of COVID-19 on older persons

- Disproportionate impact on older persons (highest proportion of deaths among population groups; social isolation and neglect; long-term care institutions etc)
- Exposed long-standing systemic inequalities
- Emerging risks and concerns: inter-generational tensions, stigma and discrimination

UN Secretary-General: “Coming out of this crisis will require a whole-of-society, whole-of-government and whole-of-the-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity”

UN responses to COVID-19 on older persons

- UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons (May 2020)
- Integrating older persons in UN Socioeconomic Response Framework
- Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (A/75/205) focusing on the impact of COVID-19
- Joint UN regional programme on human rights of older persons, health, social care and enabling environments in Europe and Central Asia (UNFPA, UNECE, WHO Europe, OHCHR, HelpAge)
- Launch of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing and the Global Report on Ageism

MIPAA review – Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

Part III 2.

In May 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General launched a Policy Brief: ‘The impact of COVID-19 on older persons’ with four key priorities for Member States’ action:

- Ensure that difficult health-care decisions affecting older people are guided by a commitment to dignity and the right to health.
- Strengthen social inclusion and solidarity during physical distancing.
- Fully integrate a focus on older persons into the socio-economic and humanitarian response to COVID-19.
- Expand participation by older persons, share good practices and harness knowledge and data.

Please describe briefly the main measures that have been set in your country to protect older persons and to address the four focus areas as outlined above.

Please also indicate if and how policy approaches have changed, in light of the lessons learned since the start of the pandemic.

Linking MIPAA review to global processes

1.2.2. Does your country take part in the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG-A) for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons?

Do the activities in your country contribute to the endeavours of the OEWG-A? Which ones?

Do national policies ensure protection of the human rights of older people in your country? **Do you see any legal gaps?**

Addressing human rights protection gaps for older persons – OHCHR study

- Update to the 2012 study as contribution to the OEWG-A
- Clear recognition of gaps, amplified in the COVID-19 pandemic
- Widespread nature and impact of ageism as overarching gap
- Autonomy and independence, elder abuse, violence and neglect, inadequate social protection coverage, long-term care, access to justice
- Emerging issues – impact of technologies, role of business
- Inadequacy of existing human rights framework
- Underscores the necessity of a dedicated international instrument to fill the gaps

Linking MIPAA review to global processes

3.1. Which measures have been contributing to protecting older persons' enjoyment of all human rights and dignity, promoting their autonomy, self-determination and participation in society, and making sure that no law, policy or programme leaves room for discrimination of any kind along RIS commitments 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the goals of the Lisbon Declaration?

3.2. Highlight in a nutshell the most important achievement during the last 20 years to protecting older persons' enjoyment of all human rights and to raising quality standards for integrated social and long-term care

Linking MIPAA review to global processes

Information collected through MIPAA+20 review will contribute to:

- OEWG-Ageing (2022 session will focus on participation of older persons in sustainable development and on economic security)
- UN socioeconomic responses to COVID-19 and medium-term assistance through UN common country programming (CCA/UNSDCF)
- UN human rights mechanisms (Universal Periodic Review, treaty bodies and special procedures)