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Economic Commission for Europe

Standing Working Group on Ageing

Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Rome, 16 and 17 June 2022

Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

Plenary session

Adoption of the agenda and election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

Annotated provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference

To be held at the ERGIFE Convention Centre of Rome, Italy, beginning on Thursday, 16 June 2022

I. Introduction

In June 2020, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted the resolution E/RES/2020/8 on the Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (MIPAA). The resolution requested the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, including by organizing regional review meetings. In response to this resolution, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) decided to organize the fifth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing from 16 to 17 June 2022 as a concluding regional event of the fourth cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS). At the invitation of Italy, the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing under the title “A sustainable world for all ages: joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life” will be held in Rome. It will be preceded by a joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research on 15 June.

II. Provisional Agenda

1. Plenary session
 - (a) Official opening of the Conference;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and election of Chair and Vice-Chairs;
 - (c) Overview of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (summary of country reports) and launch of the MIPAA+20 report;
 - (d) Member States’ interventions on national progress towards the implementation of MIPAA/RIS;

- (e) Keynote address “Priorities for ageing policies in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region”.
2. Expert panel discussions
 - (a) Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life;
 - (b) Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families;
 - (c) Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages.
3. Plenary session of the ministerial segment
 - (a) Opening of the ministerial segment;
 - (b) Presentation of the main elements of the draft ministerial declaration 2022;
 - (c) Presentation of the joint declaration of civil society and scientific research.
4. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives “Joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life: building forward on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic”
5. Ministerial roundtable discussions
 - (a) Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families;
 - (b) Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages.
6. Adoption of the ministerial declaration
7. Closing of the Conference

III. Annotations

1. Plenary session

Thursday, 16 June

(a) Official opening of the Conference

Documentation: *Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/AC.30/2022/1)*

High-level officials from Italy, World Health Organisation and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will make opening statements.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

The elected Chairperson will make brief introductory remarks.

(c) Overview of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (summary of country reports) and launch of the MIPAA+20 report

Documentation: *Synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region in 2017-2022 (ECE/AC.30/2022/3); MIPAA+20 report.*

The secretariat will provide an overview of the ageing situation in the ECE region and will summarize the findings of national reports submitted to the secretariat in the framework of the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA.

The secretariat will present the findings of the MIPAA+20 report, marking 20 years of implementation of MIPAA/RIS and taking stock of key developments in the area of ageing policy in the region during that period.

(d) Member States’ interventions on national progress towards the implementation of MIPAA/RIS

Following the secretariat’s presentations, delegates will be encouraged to make brief statements (up to 3 minutes per intervention) on the main achievements and obstacles in

implementing MIPAA/RIS during the last five years as well as considerations for priorities for future action in their country. There will also be an opportunity to submit statements in writing.

(e) Keynote address “Priorities for ageing policies in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region”

A keynote address on “Priorities for ageing policies in the UNECE Region” will open the deliberations of the thematic expert panels.

2. Expert panel discussions

Expert panels will be composed of government officials and representatives of international organizations, the scientific research community, civil society organisations, social partners and the private sector. A rapporteur will be designated to summarize the discussion for all three panels.

Following the introduction of panellists, the panel’s moderator will make a brief intervention, introducing the issues of the respective panel from a broad perspective. This will be followed by statements from panellists of up to 5-7 minutes each. In the remaining time, delegates will be encouraged to engage in the discussion, and they may in their interventions mention the main achievements and obstacles encountered in their country within the defined area of the panel, as well as considerations for priorities for related future actions.

The rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the panellists and discussants during all three panels in a brief concluding statement at the end of the first day of the Conference.

(a) Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life

The first expert panel will discuss key elements of a life-course approach to active and healthy ageing across policy sectors. It will cover progress in combatting ageism, promoting lifelong learning, age-friendly employment and health promotion. Emphasis will also be put on the inclusion of older persons through the creation of safe and enabling environments - digital, social and physical - that foster participation in the economy and society throughout life, including when functional capacity declines.

(b) Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families

The second expert panel will present successful strategies and progress achieved in ensuring access to high-quality long-term care and palliative care in ageing societies. It will examine national strategies and experiences in the provision of long-term care, including at home and within the community, as well as the long-term sustainability and resource needs of long-term care systems. The panel will also address the human rights, dignity and self-determination of older persons in long-term care settings, and the concerns raised and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Panellists are further expected to discuss the support provided by ECE member States to informal carers and families, such as adaptations to social protection systems, measures aimed at reconciling employment and care work, and strategies to promote the equal sharing of informal care between women and men.

(c) Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages

The third expert panel will discuss the need for a systematic integration of ageing issues across all policy fields and at all levels of government. It will look at examples of mainstreaming ageing at the national, regional and local levels. This includes an exploration of the twin-track approach to mainstreaming, considering ageing both from a societal and individual perspective, a discussion of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to policy making, as well as an examination of the links between mainstreaming ageing and sustainable development.

3. Plenary session of the ministerial segment

(a) Opening of the ministerial segment

Friday, 17 June

High-level representatives of Italy and the United Nations will open the ministerial segment of the Conference.

(b) Presentation of the main elements of the draft ministerial declaration 2022

Documentation: *draft ministerial declaration “A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life” (ECE/AC.30/2022/Room Document1)*.

The Chairperson of the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, on behalf of the Declaration Drafting Group, will introduce the main elements of the draft declaration.

Delegations will have the opportunity to provide, if necessary, concrete suggestions for any reformulations in writing before lunchtime.

(c) Presentation of the joint declaration of civil society and scientific research

The co-Chairpersons of the joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research will present the joint declaration of civil society and scientific research.

4. Panel discussion between ministers and civil society representatives “Joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life: building forward on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic”

The panel will be composed of ministers, representatives of civil society and of international organisations. A moderator will briefly introduce the theme and summarise the discussion. Conference delegates will be encouraged to engage in the discussion.

The panel will focus on joint efforts among multiple actors and generations in responding to the diverse ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives and well-being of older persons. Examples of action areas to be covered include access to health and social services and care, economic security, participation in society, as well as access to information and communication technologies and digital skills. The panel will also discuss the implications of the pandemic for intergenerational relations. Lessons learned from ethical, organisational and systemic issues raised during the pandemic will be highlighted as well, and conclusions for building forward will be drawn.

5. Ministerial roundtable discussions

All participating ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to join both roundtables. Statements and interventions in the ministerial roundtables are expected to address the focus issue of each roundtable.

(a) Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families

Following the introduction by the roundtable’s Chairperson, ministers will make statements on the theme (7-8 minutes each) and intervene in an interactive roundtable discussion (3-5 minutes per intervention). A rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the ministers in a brief concluding statement.

(b) Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages

Following the introduction by the roundtable’s Chair, ministers will make statements on the theme (7-8 minutes each) and intervene in an interactive roundtable discussion (3-5 minutes per intervention). A rapporteur will summarize the main points raised by the ministers in a brief concluding statement.

6. Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Documentation: *Draft ministerial declaration “A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life” (ECE/AC.30/2022/Room Document1).*

The Chairperson of the Conference will refer to the agreed final text of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration and call the Conference to adopt it by acclamation.

7. Closing of the Conference

Documentation: *Chairperson’s summary.*

The Chairperson of the Conference will summarize the results of the Conference and circulate them in the form of a Chairperson’s summary.
