



Economic Commission for Europe**Standing Working Group on Ageing****Fifteenth meeting**

Geneva, 21 and 22 November 2022

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Report and discussion on the outcome of the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference
on Ageing held in Rome in June 2022****Report on the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau of the
Standing Working Group on Ageing****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Bureau was held in three sessions. The first session took place on 3 and 4 March 2022 in a hybrid format in Geneva and online. The second session of the meeting was held on 19 May 2022, also in hybrid mode. The third session took place on 2 September with Bureau members participating online. The decisions taken at the third session are presented in Annex I.

II. First session, 3-4 March 2022**A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

2. The first session of the Bureau meeting on 3 and 4 March 2022 was attended by Bureau members from the following member States: Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, and Spain. Mr. Kai Leichsenring, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna), and Ms. Heidrun Mollenkopf, Age Platform Europe, participated on behalf of research and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), respectively. In addition, three representatives of Italy, the host country of the 2022 Ministerial Conference, took part in the meeting. The session was chaired by the Vice-chairs of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Mr. Alexis Rinckenbach (France) and Ms. Aina Strand (Norway).

B. Preparations for the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing**1. An update by the host country**

3. The representatives from the host country briefly updated the Bureau members on the preparations for the 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The representatives reported on



the process of procuring the service provider company and announced the venue of the Conference, to be visited by the Secretariat on 15 and 16 March to proceed with the finalisation of the host country agreement. The Italian representatives also reported preliminary proposals for the visual identity of the Conference. It was agreed to hold further discussions between the Secretariat and the host country on this matter.

2. An update by the Secretariat

4. The Secretariat informed Bureau members about the reporting process as part of the 4th review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS). By the time of the meeting, 33 reports had been submitted. The Secretariat was expecting the submission of around 10 more reports by the end of February/March. The Synthesis report on the implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the ECE region between 2017 and 2022 would be shared with the members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in mid-April. Member States would have a chance to suggest amendments and make factual corrections to the report before the Ministerial Conference. The executive summary of the Synthesis report and the annotated agenda of the Ministerial Conference would be translated into the three official languages of the UNECE.

5. The Secretariat reminded Bureau members of the deadline for the submission of country delegations by 15 March 2022.

3. Ministerial Conference content

6. The draft Annotated Agenda of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (16-17 June 2022, Rome) was discussed and agreed upon. Speakers and moderator roles were also discussed by Bureau members. The proposal of the Secretariat to elect two Vice-chairs received wide support among Bureau members. Additionally, it was agreed that Member States would be allowed to make brief country statements upon subscription. The tentative deadline for the submission of poster proposals for the Poster exhibition to be held during the Ministerial Conference was discussed.

4. Update on the preparations for a joint Research and Civil Society Forum

7. The representatives of research and non-governmental organizations reported to the Bureau on the organization of the Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research. The programme was agreed upon, the speakers had confirmed their attendance and the organizers were awaiting the final speech title suggestions from the speakers.

C. Draft ministerial declaration - discussion on comments received during the formal consultation

8. The Declaration Drafting Group presented the comments received on the draft text of the Ministerial Declaration during the first round of formal consultations with member States from 15 December 2021 to 15 February 2022. A total of 139 comments were received from 23 member States. The comments were reviewed in detail and discussed by the Bureau. Several comments were incorporated to the draft text. Agreement was reached on the individual clarifications needed with some member States to finalize the draft text for the second round of formal consultations.

D. UNECE Executive Committee meeting

9. An update on matters relating to the Standing Working Group on Ageing was scheduled to be presented at the 121st meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by the Vice-chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Ms. Aina Strand (Norway). However, the agenda item concerning the Standing Working Group on Ageing was postponed. The update was subsequently presented by the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Mr. Edmundo Martinho, on 24 March 2022. The Executive Committee

approved the programme of work of the Population component of the subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population for 2022.

E. Update on SWGA work programme activities in 2022

10. Due to time constraints, the update on SWGA work programme activities in 2022 was postponed to the second session of the Bureau meeting in May.

F. Decisions, summary and closing of the meeting

11. The Chair with the help of Secretariat summarized the main elements of the discussions and reviewed the decisions and action points. The Bureau adopted the following draft decisions:

- (a) The Agenda was adopted without modifications;
- (b) Bureau members took note of the updates on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference;
- (c) The Bureau agreed on the draft Annotated Agenda of the Ministerial Conference, and decided to elect two Vice-chairs and allow country statements upon subscription during the Conference;
- (d) The Bureau agreed on the revised text of the Ministerial Declaration;

12. It was agreed to hold the next session of the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau in May, with the exact date to be confirmed.

III. Second session, 19 May 2022

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

13. The second session of the Bureau meeting on 19 May 2022 was attended by Bureau members from the following member States: France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, and Spain. Mr. Kai Leichsenring, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna) participated on behalf of scientific research. In addition, a team of five representatives of Italy, the host country of the 2022 Ministerial Conference, took part in the meeting. The session was chaired by the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Mr. Edmundo Martinho (Portugal).

B. Draft Ministerial Declaration

14. The Declaration Drafting Group presented the comments received during the second round of formal consultations on the draft text of the Ministerial Declaration between 28 March and 22 April 2022. A total of 39 comments were received from 9 member States and from the European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. An additional 15 member States expressed their consent with the draft text. The comments received were reviewed in detail and discussed by the Bureau. Most comments were incorporated into the draft text. It was agreed that the Declaration Drafting Group would finalize the draft by the end of May and share it with member States for adoption at the Ministerial Conference in June 2022.

C. Preparation for the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

1. An update by the host country

15. Host country representatives presented updates on the Ministerial Conference. By the time of the meeting, 290 participants had registered for the Conference. 43 Government

delegations had confirmed presence at the Conference. Of these, 34 delegations should be headed by Ministers/State Secretaries/Deputy Ministers/Undersecretaries of State. Social media platforms were already actively used to communicate and promote the event. Updates were presented regarding social events accompanying the Conference and the possibility of holding bilateral meetings. The registration deadline for the Ministerial Conference was extended until 1 June 2022.

2. Status of the Provisional Programme of the Conference

16. Updates on the draft provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference were presented by the Secretariat and agreed by the Bureau. A weekly newsletter would inform member States on the possibility of subscription to make a general intervention on national progress in implementing MIPAA/RIS on the first day of the Conference, 16 June. The first 6 member States subscribed would get the possibility to take the floor. Other member States would have the possibility to submit written statements which would be posted online. The programme of side events was presented and discussed.

3. An update on the Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research

17. Mr. Kai Leichsenring and Ms. Heidrun Mollenkopf updated on preparations for the Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research on 15 June. By the time of the meeting, 125 invited participants whose participation would be funded by the host country had confirmed their participation (out of 150). The outcome of the Joint Forum, a Joint Declaration of Civil Society and Scientific Research, would be presented at the Ministerial Conference.

D. MIPAA/RIS review process, background documentation for Ministerial Conference, MIPAA+20 report draft, SWGA programme of work implementation

18. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the official documents – the annotated agenda of the Ministerial Conference and the Executive Summary of the Synthesis Report on the implementation of MIPAA in the ECE region between 2017 and 2022 – had been published in three languages (ENG, FRE, RUS) and were available on the UNECE webpage.

19. The Secretariat provided a detailed update on the Synthesis Report. The report is based on the information of 40 national reports submitted by member States. Its structure is mainly based on the three goals of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and progress made towards implementing MIPAA/RIS in the last five years, but it also includes sections on COVID-19 and on linkages between ageing policies and sustainable development. The Synthesis Report also provides information on the main achievements and challenges of member States and their prospects for the future. The report was sent to contributing member States for fact-checking after which it would be finalized. Bureau members expressed their general consent with the report and shared some suggestions. The ways to further promote the Synthesis Report were discussed, including during the Joint Forum on 15 June.

20. The Secretariat shared an update on the preparation of the MIPAA+20 Report – 20 years of action towards creating societies for all ages. The report provides an overview of the key trends in population ageing since the adoption of MIPAA/RIS in 2002, progress in policy development and outcomes, as well as shifts in the approach to ageing and older persons over time. The report is based on policy progress and measures reported in successive synthesis reports and country reports over past four cycles of MIPAA implementation. The report covers mainstreaming ageing, active and healthy ageing, ageing with dignity, solidarity and equity between generations, gender equality and ageing societies, and achieving harmony with demographic changes, among other themes. Bureau members were invited to provide comments on the draft report.

21. The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of other elements of the programme of work during the first quarter of 2022. Policy Brief No. 27 on ‘Mainstreaming Ageing – revisited’ was published in February 2022. It focused on key enablers for the integration of ageing into broader policy agendas, including: political and executive

leadership, strategic frameworks for mainstreaming ageing, governance and coordination mechanisms, age-sensitive analysis and impact assessments, capacity development for mainstreaming ageing; awareness, data, and analysis to inform policy and participatory policymaking.

22. The Secretariat informed Bureau members about a 10-year evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap for Mainstreaming Ageing in the Republic of Moldova, for which a request and funding had been received in January 2022. A desk study and stakeholder survey were prepared in March-April 2022, followed by a field visit for stakeholder consultations in May 2022. Meetings were held with different groups of stakeholders and with older people in the Republic of Moldova. The mission was assessed as very productive and informative. The draft evaluation report should be finalized by the end of June and its findings will inform a new programme on Active Ageing to be developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in 2022.

E. Decisions, summary and closing of the meeting

23. The Chair with the help of the Secretariat summarized the main elements of the discussions and reviewed the decisions and action points. The Bureau adopted the following draft decisions:

- (a) The Agenda was adopted without modifications;
- (b) Bureau members welcomed the progress made in preparations for the 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing;
- (c) Bureau members agreed on the revised draft of the Ministerial Declaration to be finalized by the Declaration Drafting Group by the end of May and shared with member States for adoption at the Ministerial Conference in June 2022;
- (d) Bureau members took note of the ongoing preparations of background documentation of the Ministerial Conference, agreed with the structure and findings of the draft Synthesis Report and MIPAA+20 report;
- (e) The Bureau took note of the progress made during the first quarter of 2022 in implementing the 2022 work programme of the Standing Working Group on Ageing.

Annex

Decisions taken at the third session of the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing on 2 September 2022

The third session of the meeting of the Bureau took place on 2 September 2022 and was held online. Bureau members from the following member States participated in the meeting: Ireland, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. Mr. Kai Leichsenring, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, and Ms. Heidrun Mollenkopf, AGE Platform Europe, participated on behalf of scientific research and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), respectively. In addition, a representative of Italy, host country of the 2022 Ministerial Conference, took part in the meeting. The session was chaired by the SWGA Chair, Mr. Edmundo Martinho (Portugal).

- The Agenda was adopted with minor modifications suggested by the Secretariat.
- The Bureau took note of the updates on the SWGA programme of work implementation in 2022, presented by the Secretariat. The Bureau agreed on the process of developing the online training course on mainstreaming ageing and on the focus area of Policy Brief on Ageing no. 28 on older persons in vulnerable situations.
- The Bureau agreed on the draft Annotated Agenda of the 15th meeting of the SWGA (21-22 November 2022, Geneva), planned to take place in person. The Bureau discussed the draft concept note of the 2022 Policy Seminar on Ageing, suggested some additional points for consideration, as well as potential country examples and speakers, to whom the Secretariat will be reaching out.
- The Bureau discussed the modalities for the upcoming Bureau election at the 15th meeting of the SWGA and made a suggestion for developing Terms of Reference for the work and membership of the Bureau. The call for nominations will be sent out by the Secretariat to SWGA members in September 2022. Countries will be asked to send their nominations, and to express interest in serving as Chair or Vice-chair, by the end of October. The suggestion of developing Terms of Reference for the Bureau will be further followed up.
- The Bureau agreed on the modalities for the development of the next 5-year workplan of the SWGA for the fifth cycle of MIPAA/RIS implementation in 2023-2027.
- The Bureau agreed with the Secretariat's proposal of including, if necessary, a new result in the ECE programme budget for 2024 on intergenerational solidarity, dialogue, and meaningful participation in policymaking.
- The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's updates concerning the Ageing Fund (Phase III) and member State donations. Bureau members highlighted the importance of enabling the reception of member State donations in 2022. Bureau members agreed on the proposed no-cost extension of the Ageing Fund (Phase III) to 2023, if another way can be found to receive donations in 2022.