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Economic Commission for Europe

Standing Working Group on Ageing

Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 20–22 November 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, beginning on Monday, 20 November 2023 at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Work of the Bureau.
4. International events and initiatives on ageing and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Implementing the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration.
6. Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing 2023–2027.
7. Implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2023 and plans for 2024:
 - (a) Raising awareness on ageing and its implications for sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and creating synergies with related policy agendas;
 - (b) International cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion:
 - (i) Policy Briefs;
 - (ii) In-depth policy discussion;
 - (iii) Online policy discussions in between annual meetings;
 - (iv) Peer learning;

* Official documents for the meeting will be made available on the web page of the meeting <https://unece.org/population/events/sixteenth-meeting-standing-working-group-ageing>. Delegates attending the meeting are required to register online – the registration link is available on the web page of the meeting.



- (c) Guidelines and policy recommendations, advisory services, and capacity-building:
 - (i) Road maps for mainstreaming ageing;
 - (ii) Capacity development on mainstreaming ageing;
 - (d) Monitoring the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking:
 - (i) Ageing-related and age-disaggregated data;
 - (ii) Generations and Gender Programme;
 - (iii) Ageing Policies Database.
8. Evaluation of the Ageing – Phase III project.
 9. Updating the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.
 10. Programme of work for 2024 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2025.
 11. Financing of the programme of work.
 12. Other business and summary of decisions.
 13. In-depth policy discussion.
 14. Conclusions and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) will open the sixteenth meeting. SWGA will then be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/WG.1/2023/1).

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting (ECE/WG.1/2023/1)

2. Election of officers

SWGA will be invited to elect newly nominated members of the Bureau. Information will be circulated by email prior to the meeting.

3. Work of the Bureau

In the course of 2023, the Bureau worked by means of electronic consultations and online meetings in addition to its fifteenth meeting held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 27 and 28 April 2023. The Chair will brief SWGA on the Bureau's work presented in document ECE/WG.1/2023/3.

Documentation: Report on the fifteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (ECE/WG.1/2023/3)

4. International events and initiatives on ageing and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Members of SWGA will be briefed on relevant international meetings, events and initiatives on ageing in 2023. Briefings will cover the outcomes of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) which concluded with the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development (E/RES/2023/15); the regional review and conference on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD30);¹ the Regional and High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, activities by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, updates on relevant activities by the European Commission and activities under the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.

Participants will be invited to inform SWGA about any major initiatives or events related to ageing.

5. Implementing the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration

SWGA members will be invited to share new policy developments responding to the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration. The presentations will be followed by discussion.

6. Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing 2023–2027

At its fifteenth meeting, SWGA delegated the task of developing the new programme of work 2023–2027 to the Bureau and decided to temporarily extend its membership to volunteers for this task. Following this invitation, Belgium, Canada, Italy and Norway contributed to the development of the proposed programme of work.

The Bureau will present the draft programme of work for the years 2023–2027 as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.1. Members of SWGA will be invited to discuss the proposed programme of work and to approve it.

Documentation: Draft Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing 2023–2027 (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.1)

7. Implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2023 and plans for 2024

The secretariat will present the elements of the programme of work implemented in 2023 and outline planned activities for 2024. Under this agenda item, SWGA will be invited to approve the implementation report for 2023 as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2023/4.

(a) Raising awareness on ageing and its implications for sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and creating synergies with related policy agendas

Members of SWGA will be briefed on activities for raising awareness on ageing and its implications for sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region and creating synergies with related policy agendas. Members of the group are invited to share updates on relevant awareness-raising activities organized during the year.

¹ Information on the UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD is available on the dedicated web page <https://unece.org/population/icpd30>.

(b) International cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion*(i) Policy Briefs*

The secretariat will present Policy Brief No. 28 “Older persons in vulnerable situations”. SWGA members will be invited to propose priority themes for future policy briefs and decide on the topic for Policy Brief No. 29.

(ii) In-depth policy discussion

The secretariat will brief SWGA on the in-depth policy discussion in 2023 on the topic “Combating inequalities in older age”. Members of the group are invited to discuss and decide on the topic for the in-depth policy discussion in 2024.

(iii) Online policy discussions in between annual meetings

The secretariat will brief SWGA on the planned online policy discussions in between annual meetings proposed in the new programme of work. Members of the group are invited to decide on the topics of the online policy discussions in between annual meetings in 2024.

(iv) Peer learning

Under this item, opportunities for peer learning will be discussed.

(c) Guidelines and policy recommendations, advisory services, and capacity-building*(i) Road maps for mainstreaming ageing*

The secretariat will inform members about a new road map project in Uzbekistan initiated in 2023. Members of SWGA will be invited to express interest if they wish to develop a road map for mainstreaming ageing in 2024.

(ii) Capacity development on mainstreaming ageing

The secretariat will brief SWGA on new capacity development tools for mainstreaming ageing developed in 2023. Members of the group will be invited to update the group on trainings and workshops on ageing organized in 2023 and share plans for capacity development activities in 2024.

(d) Monitoring the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking*(i) Ageing-related and age-disaggregated data*

SWGA will be updated on international efforts on ageing-related and age-disaggregated data for monitoring, including activities by the Titchfield City Group, World Health Organization (WHO) and Eurostat.

(ii) Generations and Gender Programme

SWGA will be updated on activities under the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) in 2023. Members of the group who have used GGP to inform policymaking or are planning to fund a survey are invited to share their experience.

(iii) Ageing Policies Database

The secretariat will report on progress in developing the UNECE Ageing Policies Database and outline plans for 2024.

SWGA will discuss the possibility of developing a quantitative monitoring framework for the fifth review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA/RIS in discussion groups.

Documentation: Implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2023 (ECE/WG.1/2023/4)

8. Evaluation of the Ageing – Phase III project

The secretariat will brief SWGA on the outcomes of the evaluation of the project entitled “Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)” as contained in document (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.5). The secretariat will also present suggested responses to the recommendations of the evaluation.

Members of SWGA will be invited to discuss the outcomes and recommendations of the evaluation.

Documentation: Evaluation outcomes and follow-up (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.2)

9. Updating the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

At its fifteenth meeting SWGA decided to set up a task force for the follow-up on paragraph 47 of the Rome Ministerial Declaration. The Bureau, at its fifteenth meeting, nominated the Vice-Chair of SWGA (Germany) to chair the task force.

The Chair of the task force will inform SWGA on activities and present proposed modalities for updating the Regional Implementation Strategy. Members of SWGA will be invited to discuss and adopt the proposed terms of reference for the task force (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.2) and the proposed modalities for the participatory approach (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.3).

Documentation: Terms of reference for the task force for the follow up on paragraph 47 of the Rome Ministerial Declaration (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.3)

Proposed modalities for updating the Regional Implementation Strategy (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.4)

10. Programme of work for 2024 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2025

In line with the “Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes”, approved by the Executive Committee at its 115th meeting (Geneva, 5 March 2021), SWGA will be invited to adopt the draft programme of work of the population component of the housing, land management and population subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/WG.1/2023/5) and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. The programme of work is based on the Economic Commission for Europe proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 20)) and follows the annual budget format approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 77/267 of 30 December 2022.

Based on the sequential review procedure, SWGA will also be invited to consider the “Outline of the key components of the programme of work of the population component of the housing, land management and population subprogramme for 2025” (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.4) and to provide recommendations on those components, as necessary. Those recommendations agreed by the Executive Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the population component of the housing, land management and population subprogramme for 2025.

Documentation: Draft programme of work of the population component of the housing, land management and population subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/WG.1/2023/5)

Outline of the key components of the programme of work of the population component of the housing, land management and population subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/WG.1/2023/INF.5)

11. Financing of the programme of work

The secretariat will report on the current status of the financing of the programme, including budget allocations of recent donations, and identify areas that require further contribution.

The Chair will invite SWGA to pledge financial or in-kind contributions towards the implementation of the new multi-year Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing 2023–2027.

12. Other business and summary of decisions

Standing Working Group members wishing to discuss other issues under this agenda item are invited to inform the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting.

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the decisions taken.

13. In-depth policy discussion

This year's in-depth policy discussion will focus on the topic "Combating inequalities in older age". The event will present pertinent trends in socioeconomic and gender inequalities among younger and older generations in the UNECE region. It will explore the potential impact of other societal shifts, such as evolving labour markets and technological advancements, on inequalities among older persons, both now and in the future. The central aim of the event is to discuss the policy implications of these trends as well as to highlight concrete policy options for preventing and mitigating inequalities in older age.

14. Conclusions and closing of the meeting

The secretariat will summarise the key messages of the in-depth policy discussion.

The Chair will close the meeting.

III. Tentative timetable

Time

Agenda item

Monday, 20 November, morning

10:00–10:15	Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
10:15–10:25	Item 2. Election of officers
10:25–10:40	Item 3. Work of the Bureau
10:40–11:30	Item 4. International events and initiatives on ageing and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
11:30–11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45–13:00	Item 4 (cont.). International events and initiatives on ageing and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
13:00–15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>

Monday, 20 November, afternoon

15:00–16:45	Item 5. Implementing the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration
16:45–17:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
17:00–17:30	Item 6. Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing 2023–2027
17:30–18:00	Wrap up and closing of the first day
18:00–19:30	<i>Evening reception</i>
Tuesday, 21 November, morning	
09:30–09:45	Opening of the second day of the meeting
09:45–11:00	Item 7. Implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2023 and plans for 2024
09:45–10:00	(a) Raising awareness on ageing and its implications for sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and creating synergies with related policy agendas
10:00–10:40	(b) International cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Policy Briefs (ii) In-depth policy discussion (iii) Online policy discussions in between annual meetings (iv) Peer learning
10:40–11:00	(c) Guidelines and policy recommendations, advisory services, and capacity-building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Road maps for mainstreaming ageing (ii) Capacity development on mainstreaming ageing
11:00–11:40	(d) Monitoring the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ageing-related and age-disaggregated data (ii) Generations and Gender Programme (iii) Ageing Policies Database
11:40–13:00	Group discussions
13:00–15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Tuesday, 21 November, afternoon	
15:00–15:45	Item 7 (cont.). Implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2023 and plans for 2024 Reporting back from discussion groups
15:45–16:00	Item 8. Evaluation of the Ageing – Phase III project
16:00–16:45	Item 9. Updating the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
16:45–17:00	Item 10. Programme of work for 2024 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2025
17:00–17:15	Item 11. Financing of the programme of work

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
17:15–17:30	Item 12. Other business and summary of decisions
17:30	Closing of the second day of the meeting
Wednesday, 22 November, morning	
10:00–10:15	Opening of the third day of the meeting
10:15–12:45	Item 13. In-depth policy discussion
12:45–13:00	Item 14. Conclusions and closing of the meeting
