



Economic Commission for Europe

Standing Working Group on Ageing

Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 20–22 November 2023

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

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

Proposed modalities for updating the Regional Implementation Strategy

I. Background

Paragraph 47 of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration “entrust(s) the Standing Working Group on Ageing with the task of updating RIS and exploring the possibility of also updating MIPAA to adapt ageing-related policy responses to economic, social, and digital transitions and emerging challenges, and developing further instruments to support them”. At its fifteenth meeting in November 2022 the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) decided to establish a task force to follow up on paragraph 47. The modalities of setting up the task force and tentative milestones for its work were further discussed by the SWGA Bureau at its fifteenth meeting in April 2023.

II. Mandate, work and responsibility of the task force

The task force, which will be chaired by the Vice-Chair of SWGA (Germany) and report to SWGA and its Bureau, will be created for a duration of three and a half years (2023–2026). The goal of the task force will be to carry out national stakeholder engagement (involving member States as well as civil society and the research community) and to develop a revised draft of the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), to be submitted to SWGA at its nineteenth annual meeting in November 2026. The task force will report on the progress annually to SWGA as well as to the Bureau of SWGA. It will guide and carry out the work to revise the RIS based on a participatory approach.

The work of the task force began with drafting the terms of reference, the modalities of work, and the tentative timetable, which will be presented to SWGA in November 2023 for approval. At the meeting, member States will have the opportunity to provide input on the next steps, main considerations, and key questions for national consultations.

In 2024, the task force will draft guidance and questions for the national engagement of stakeholders with member States, the research community, and civil society. After approval of the guidance materials by the Bureau, the task force will brief the National Focal Points on Ageing (NFPAs) about the national consultations and how to best use the proposed materials. At the 2024 meeting of SWGA, the task force and member States will present first results of the implementation of the national stakeholder engagements.

In 2024 and 2025, international frameworks and processes such as MIPAA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Decade of Health Ageing, and other United Nations conventions and declarations will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the updated RIS. The results of the national stakeholder engagements will be analysed and synthesized and will inform the drafting of the revised RIS. The task force will regularly update the SWGA and its Bureau about its work and provide opportunities to provide input into the revision process. In 2025, the annual meeting of SWGA will include a discussion about the main themes that should be included in the updated RIS. The meeting could also be used for a midterm intergovernmental meeting or conference, if decided by the Bureau and SWGA. In 2026, the draft of the updated RIS will be discussed and proposed for approval by SWGA.

The task force will primarily work via email and online conference calls. Occasional travel may be involved for in-person meetings that the task force may wish to organize.

National Focal Points on Ageing are asked to contribute to the work of the task force and the revision of the RIS and are seen as custodians of national stakeholder engagement in the member States. NFPAs will be invited to participate in task force briefings on their work and asked to organize the process for the engagement of stakeholders in the member States. They will send the results of the national processes to the secretariat for further use by the task force. NFPAs will have the opportunity to present their work at the SWGA annual meetings and support the work of the task force.

Member States are requested to support the work of the task force and the process for national stakeholder engagement by supporting the work of SWGA as well as through donations into the ageing fund.

III. Responsibility of the Bureau

The Bureau of SWGA is asked to support the task force in its work and will be informed regularly by the task force about its work. The Bureau will discuss in each of its meetings the results and next steps of the task force. Some members of the task force are also members of the Bureau which will support the Bureau's involvement in the work and facilitate communication between the groups. The Bureau will decide, after consultation with the task force, about a midterm intergovernmental meeting/conference (possibly on the third day of the annual SWGA meeting in 2025) and will review the drafts of the updated RIS.

IV. Responsibility of the secretariat

The secretariat of SWGA will support the work of the task force and serve as its secretariat. It will participate in the meetings of the task force, assist in preparing documents and meetings, collect the results of the national stakeholder engagements and synthesize them for use in the development of the new RIS.

V. Responsibility of the Standing Working Group on Ageing

SWGA will discuss in each of its meetings the work of the task force and its work to update the RIS. Member States who are not part of the task force will therefore have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the new RIS. In 2023, SWGA will review and be requested to approve the terms of reference and the modalities of the national stakeholder engagement. Member States will have the opportunity to present best practice examples of national stakeholder engagement in the respective member States and the way forward towards an updated RIS during the annual meetings of SWGA. During the annual meeting 2025, SWGA will discuss and approve the main themes to be included in the revised RIS. At its 2026 annual meeting, SWGA will review the draft of the revised RIS.

VI. Responsibility of the National Focal Points on Ageing

The National Focal Points on Ageing will play a key role in facilitating the process of updating the RIS and engaging national stakeholders. They will take part in the annual SWGA meetings and participate in the task force briefings on the national engagement of stakeholders. They will coordinate the national stakeholder engagements in their countries and update SWGA on progress in 2024. NFPAs will inform the secretariat and the task force about the results of the national processes and the main themes proposed for an updated RIS. They will inform national stakeholders about the process of updating RIS and bring their opinions and experiences to SWGA for consideration of the task force. NFPAs will also coordinate the process of obtaining inputs from their Governments for the final drafts of the revised RIS.

VII. Responsibility of civil society and research community

Civil society and research community are an important part of the entire process on the regional level (through the Bureau members representing civil society and the research community) as well as on national level. They will participate actively in the national consultations so that the opinions and needs of older persons, caregivers, and civil society organizations are reflected in the updated RIS. Evidence from the research community will also be considered in the update to the RIS.

VIII. Provisional timeline and outputs

The following outputs and tentative timeline are proposed:

- (a) Proposed modalities and timetable for the process (by November 2023)
 - (b) Implementation of a participatory process engaging civil society and researchers (2024–2025)
 - (c) Proposal of main topics/themes to be included in new RIS (by November 2025)
 - (d) Draft revised Regional Implementation Strategy (by November 2026)
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