

Terms of reference for National Focal Points on Ageing under the Standing Working Group on Ageing

I. Mandate and membership of the Standing Working Group on Ageing

1. The Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) is an intergovernmental body which is subsidiary to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and reports regularly to EXCOM on its work programme and achievements.
2. The mandate of SWGA emanates from several resolutions and global agendas, including the Rome Ministerial Declaration on Ageing (2022), the General Assembly resolution 75/131 (2020) on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), the General Assembly resolutions on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1, 2015), the World Health Organization's Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health (2016) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014.
3. The membership of SWGA consists of national focal points on ageing (NFPAs) representing the member States of the UNECE region.

II. Objectives of the Standing Working Group on Ageing

4. SWGA aims to support all countries in the UNECE region to mainstream population ageing across their policy and regulatory frameworks to adjust to demographic changes and create an environment conducive to the full realization of the individual and societal potential of living longer. The Standing Working Group supports the realization of the policy principles set out in the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS), and the subsequent Ministerial Declarations on Ageing among the UNECE member States. It seeks synergies with the activities related to the implementation and monitoring of MIPAA/RIS and those related to the regional/national follow-up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other population-related international or regional frameworks such as ICPD and the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.

III. Role of National Focal Points on Ageing

5. The role of the NFPA is to represent their Government on the Standing Working Group on Ageing and to contribute to advancing the programme of work of SWGA, including through spreading knowledge developed by SWGA and coordinating activities supporting the advancement of the SWGA programme of work in their respective country.

IV. Appointment of National Focal Points on Ageing

6. NFPAs are appointed by their respective Government, for example by a Ministry with responsibilities in the field of ageing policies. Ideally, the NFPA is a government official who actively works on the ageing portfolio within the country they represent. Appointments can be communicated to the UNECE Secretariat either directly or through Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva. If communicated directly, the Permanent Mission should be copied.

V. Period of service of National Focal Points on Ageing

7. There is no defined term length for NFPA. In general, it is desirable for the NFPA to serve for a period of at least several years to promote continuity in the work of SWGA.

VI. Responsibilities of National Focal Points on Ageing

8. NFPAs contribute to the implementation of the programme of work of SGWA through undertaking various responsibilities which may include:

- (a) Participating in annual meeting of SWGA and UNECE ministerial conferences on ageing, sharing knowledge and experience related to the national implementation of MIPAA/RIS and other policies related to demographic change and population ageing;
- (b) Coordinating inputs to the work of SWGA across government agencies and informing all relevant ministries and agencies about SWGA initiatives and activities;
- (c) Acting as point of contact for ageing-related inquiries from SWGA and the UNECE Secretariat;
- (d) Providing regular updates on ageing-related policies to support monitoring and experience-sharing on the implementation of MIPAA/RIS;
- (e) Supporting the development of joint products and activities under the SWGA programme of work such as policy briefs, guidelines, and ageing policy dialogues;
- (f) Increasing awareness regarding the importance of mainstreaming ageing across government;
- (g) Supporting the implementation and periodic review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS at the country and regional levels;
- (h) Supporting the preparation of the ministerial conferences on ageing and liaising with relevant ministers to seek ministerial representation at the conference;
- (i) Considering contributing through in-kind and/or financial support to the implementation of the SWGA programme of work, as relevant.

VII. Opportunities for National Focal Points on Ageing

9. Opportunities for NFPA include to:
- (a) Propose and join SWGA task forces, leading on the development of new products and guidelines related to their area(s) of expertise;
 - (b) Shape the SWGA programme of work and propose new activities and capacity-building tools;
 - (c) Enhance their knowledge of international ageing policy through exchange of experience and good practice;
 - (d) Develop their professional network and benefit from bilateral and multilateral cooperation with NFPAs from other countries;
 - (e) Participate in peer learning activities;
 - (f) Benefit from technical advisory services such as for the development of Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing and other ageing policies;
 - (g) Present national practices at SWGA policy dialogues and other international events;
 - (h) Stand for election to the SWGA Bureau.