



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Working Group on Ageing

#### Third meeting

Geneva, 22 and 23 November 2010

## Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its third meeting

### I. Introduction

#### A. Attendance

1. The third meeting of the Working Group on Ageing was held on 22 and 23 November 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
2. Representatives from the following 26 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) participated in the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Holy See took part in the meeting as an observer State.
3. Representatives from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (ECV) also participated in the meeting, as did representatives of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the European Federation of Older People (EURAG) and the International Network on the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Representatives of the international organization, the Council of Europe, additionally took part.
4. The total number of participants was 47. A full list is available on the meeting website.<sup>1</sup>

#### B. Organizational matters

5. The Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE made an opening statement.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/pau/age/wg3/bgdocs1.htm>.

6. The Working Group approved its agenda as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2010/1.

7. The Working Group elected a representative of Austria as its Chair and re-elected the representative of Armenia as its Vice-Chair. Delegates of the following member States were re-elected to the Bureau: Austria, Armenia, Belgium, Germany, Malta, Serbia and Spain. Delegates of the following UNECE member States were newly elected to the Bureau: Georgia and the United Kingdom. The representatives of EURAG and ECV were also invited to participate in the Bureau's meetings.

## **II. Work of the Bureau**

8. An expert adviser to the UNECE secretariat informed the Working Group about the second meeting of the Bureau (Sliema, Malta, 27–28 May 2010), referencing the report of the meeting (ECE/WG.1/2010/3).

## **III. Implementation of the work programme**

9. The Working Group was referred to the note on the implementation of the work programme (ECE/WG.1/2010.4).

### **A. Policy briefs with good practice examples**

10. The secretariat presented an introduction to the policy briefs on ageing and reported on progress in drafting two new policy briefs: (a) "Tapping the Potential of Volunteering" and (b) "Age-Friendly Employment: policies and practices". The Working Group discussed the drafts and provided comments and suggestions, including the need to uphold elimination of mandatory retirement ages in the policy brief. The secretariat would then finalize the drafts, taking the suggested amendments into consideration.

11. At the invitation of the Working Group, the representative of EURAG presented information about volunteering, with reference to the European Year of Volunteering in 2011 and the Alliance of European volunteer networks (EYV Alliance) mobilizing in relation to it.

12. The secretariat described and explained the database of good practice examples and demonstrated its use. It was suggested that the database should contain website links where possible to facilitate its use. The secretariat clarified the criteria for inclusion of good practice examples both in the database and in the policy briefs. Working Group members were requested to continue providing examples to the secretariat.

13. The representative of Greece presented information on good practices regarding social inclusion of older persons in Greece.

14. The Chair invited Working Group members to translate existing policy briefs into their national languages, as appropriate, and to disseminate them as broadly as possible.

15. The Working Group, after deliberation, decided on the topics of the following policy briefs, to be prepared and presented at its next session:

- (a) Regional cooperation on ageing policies;
- (b) Images of older persons.

## **B. Monitoring implementation: developing indicators, collecting data, disseminating information**

16. A representative of ECV presented a report on work relating to the project "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation", namely, the development of indicators for monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA) (in particular on indicators of gender-specific poverty and long-term care), and updates on the related website and newsletter.

17. The Working Group discussed the information presented and made suggestions, which ECV will consider in its future work.

## **C. Capacity development**

18. The representative of Armenia reported on the national Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing and the related National Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing, which are due to be adopted by the Government in early 2011. The process had been positive and had provided a useful platform for raising awareness of ageing issues.

19. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed participants about progress on developing a national Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing with UNECE, as well as the parallel development of a National Strategy on Demographic Security.

20. The secretariat provided an overview of the Road Map exercise and on progress and future actions in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova. Delegates were invited to provide input on modalities for follow-up and evaluation of implementation of the Road Maps' recommendations. The possibility of extending the Road Map project to a third country in 2011 was explained and member States were invited to approach the secretariat with expressions of interest.

21. The Working Group approved the Armenian Road Map report for publication.

22. An expert adviser to the secretariat informed the Working Group about a recent subregional capacity development workshop on evidence-based policy formulation on ageing, which took place in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on from 27 to 29 October 2010. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, with the participation of representatives of the UNECE secretariat.

23. The secretariat informed delegates about a capacity development training workshop on community services for older persons, being organized by Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in cooperation with the secretariat. The workshop will take place from 20 February to 3 March 2011. Details of a provisional programme were provided. Members of the Working Group were invited to attend the workshop and to pass on details to interested colleagues.

24. Representatives of Slovenia, Austria and Germany, as well as the International Institute on Ageing, reported on the various bilateral and subregional capacity-building events in the area of ageing that took place in 2010, and shared information on forthcoming capacity-building activities.

#### **D. Analysis of intergenerational relationships**

25. The secretariat presented the newly published report on “Intergenerational Family Relationships in Ageing Societies”, arising from the keynote speech and in-depth discussion at the Second Meeting of the Working Group in November 2009 on that topic. The premises, findings and policy messages were summarized and printed copies were provided to participants.

#### **IV. Discussion of the second cycle of review and appraisal of the regional implementation strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

26. Referring to the note on preparations for the second review and appraisal of implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ECE/WG.1/2010/5), an expert adviser to the secretariat delivered a presentation outlining the review and appraisal process at the national, regional and global levels.

27. The Working Group discussed the reporting requirements of member States in that process. It was agreed that the Bureau, together with the secretariat, would prepare draft guidelines for such reporting to be discussed at its next meeting in March 2011, and the secretariat would then disseminate those guidelines to member States.

28. A representative of Austria introduced a concept note regarding a proposed Ministerial Conference on Ageing to be held in Vienna in September 2012. A scientific and NGO forum would be held in parallel to the conference. The representative of EURAG reiterated his willingness to coordinate NGO input to the conference. The Working Group discussed the proposal. Members voted on a motto for the conference from among a shortlist chosen by the Bureau, and discussed the themes of expert panel sessions proposed by the Bureau.

29. The motto for the 2012 Ministerial Conference chosen by a majority vote of the Working Group was “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”.

30. The Focal Point on Ageing from the Programme on Ageing of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs delivered a presentation (via video link from New York) on the global level of the review and appraisal cycle. The focal point also informed the Working Group about a draft resolution on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, which had been adopted by the Third Committee on 19 November 2010 and would go the United Nations General Assembly for action at the end of the year.

#### **V. Financing of the work programme**

31. The secretariat provided information on the financial situation of the UNECE Population Unit and emphasized the need for funds for the continuation of the proposed programme of work. Working Group members were invited to explore with their ministries the possibilities for making contributions to the trust fund, to support the Working Group’s activities. The representative of Germany expressed readiness to seek approval from their ministry for continuation of Germany’s in-kind support of the Working Group, by financing a new post for an Associate Expert on Ageing; and the representatives of Spain reaffirmed their support, noting that Spain would be hosting the next meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing in 2011.

## VI. Summary and conclusions

32. The secretariat referred members to the Biennial Performance Evaluation 2008–2009 and the Biennial Assessment log frame 2010–2011 (ECE/WG.1/2010.4, annexes I and II). Both documents were approved by the Working Group by consensus. The secretariat also announced that a Draft Biennial Programme for 2012–2013 would be circulated via e-mail with one week provided for approval.

33. The Working Group acknowledged the importance of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) and agreed to promote its outputs. It also decided to invite an expert on Generations and Gender Survey data analysis to lead an in-depth discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group, on quality of life and active ageing, in line with the theme of the proposed ministerial conference in 2012.

34. The Chair summarized the deliberations and decisions of the third meeting of the Working Group on Ageing. The decisions taken were:

(a) Topics were chosen for two new policy briefs (“Regional cooperation on ageing policies” and “Images of older persons”);

(b) Approval was given for publication of the Road Map on Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia;

(c) It was agreed that the Bureau of the Working Group, together with the secretariat, would be responsible for issuing guidelines for country reporting for the regional level of the second cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA;

(d) A motto was chosen for the 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing (“Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”);

(e) A topic was chosen for in-depth discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group (quality of life and active ageing);

(f) It was agreed that the Working Group would act as the Preparatory Committee for planning the 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing;

(g) It was agreed that the Bureau of the Working Group would be responsible for drafting a declaration to be made at that Ministerial Conference;

(h) The Working Group approved the Biennial Performance Evaluation 2008–2009 and the Biennial Assessment log frame 2010–2011.

35. The Working Group agreed that its fourth annual meeting would be held on 21 and 22 November 2011. The Bureau would meet on 24 and 25 March in Madrid, Spain.

36. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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