

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

22-24 November 2011

Beijing

Aide-mémoire

I. Organizational arrangements

The Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with the China National Committee on Ageing, is organizing a Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) from 22 to 24 November 2011 in Beijing, China.

II. Participation

The Preparatory Meeting will be attended by experts on population ageing, from governments, research institutions and civil society organizations as well as relevant international organizations.

III. Objectives of the Meeting

The objective of the Preparatory Meeting is to identify key priorities related to population ageing in the region and determine the agenda for the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

This will be the key preparatory platform for incorporation of issues and concerns on ageing from the Asia-Pacific region into the expected outcome document for adoption by member States at the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, to be convened in early 2012. The outcome document will be submitted to the global review of MIPAA in 2013.

IV. Substantive preparations

The participants are expected to share experiences and good practices in relation to the implementation, review and appraisal of MIPAA, and contribute inputs for the development of a draft outcome document to be considered by member States at the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid

International Plan of Action on Ageing. To this end, the Preparatory Meeting will include a combination of plenary sessions and group discussions.

The Meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese.

V. Context

In line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on “Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002”, the second global review and appraisal of MIPAA will be conducted in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, with the theme “Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: social situation, well-being and dignity, development and the full realization of all human rights for older persons”. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2010/14, has called on the regional commissions, including ESCAP, to organize regional review and appraisal meetings in 2012 as part of the preparatory process for the global review.

ESCAP member States decided to convene an Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of MIPAA in early 2012, through the Commission resolution 67/5 of 25 May 2011 on “Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on ageing in the Asia-Pacific region”. The Commission, in its resolution 67/5, encouraged ESCAP member States to conduct a national review and appraisal of MIPAA using, among other things, a bottom-up participatory approach.

The Preparatory Meeting will thus serve as an important platform to identify key priorities related to population ageing in the region and concrete recommendations for action, which will be reflected in the draft outcome document, for submission to the above-mentioned Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

The number of older persons in Asia-Pacific is rising at an unprecedented pace. The number of older persons in Asia-Pacific is estimated to triple from 419 million in 2010 to more than 1.2 billion by 2050. By this time, one in four people in the region will be over 60 years old. In East and North-East Asia, more than one in three people will be older than 60 years. This will signify one of the most significant demographic transformations globally this century.

Among the critical issues that have been identified at regional forums related to population ageing are the lack of social protection for a large number of older persons and the limited capacity to meet rising demands for elderly care services and age-friendly environments, including housing, infrastructure and public facilities. The gender dimension of ageing also merits great attention, such as health conditions of older women, their vulnerability to poverty, social isolation and violence, as well as the excessive burden borne by older women through their provision of unremunerated care and their limited access to social protection schemes.

With the impact of ageing already felt in the region, governments are aware of the need to adequately prepare for an ageing society. ESCAP is supporting member States in their implementation and preparations for the second review and appraisal of the MIPAA through regional analysis and provision of a regional platform to share national experience and good practices, and identify ways forward to build government capacity for developing policies and programmes to address the critical concerns of older persons.

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