

UNECE Input to the Twelfth Working Session of the United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Focus area 1: Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

UNECE member States committed in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration to the goal of **recognizing the potential of older persons**, including by:

- empowering individuals to realize their potential for physical, mental and social well-being throughout their lives and to participate in and contribute to society according to their capacities, needs, and desires
- developing and implementing socially responsible and future-oriented economic and financial strategies that encompass the needs, capacities and expectations of current and future generations, while valuing the potential of older persons, their life experience, their responsibility and support for all generations and for society
- fostering effective consultations with, and involvement of, older persons and their representatives at the national, regional and local levels in designing policies, strategies and measures that directly or indirectly influence their lives, taking into account the diversity of older persons and their needs
- promoting a positive image of older persons, acknowledging their contributions to society and strengthening multigenerational discourse and intergenerational learning by all stakeholders, cultivating a life-course perspective in education, the media and other areas to promote better understanding of individual and societal ageing and the opportunities it presents

Policy progress in the UNECE relevant to the focus area of contribution of older persons to sustainable development – third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in 2017

The regional synthesis report based on 45 national reports submitted for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in the UNECE region, provides information on progress relevant to the focus area of contribution of older persons to sustainable development during the period 2012 to 2016/2017 on pages 17 – 24 of the proceedings. The Statistical Annex provides data on the participation of older persons in society on pages 72 – 75 of the proceedings.

The Proceedings of the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which contain the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, Synthesis Report and Statistical Annex are available on the UNECE website at https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Documents/Conference_Proceedings_Lisbon_Ministerial_Conference.pdf.

The fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy is currently ongoing, and will culminate, at the regional level, with the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Rome in June 2022. The outcome document of the conference will outline policy priorities in the region in the area of ageing for the next five years. The proceedings of the 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing will include updated policy information on ageing-related topics from the region, and will be available at the UNECE webpage dedicated to the fourth review and appraisal: <https://unece.org/population/ageing/MIPAA20>. National reports are

being made available as soon as submitted and can be consulted at <https://unece.org/mipaa20-country-reports>.

UNECE publications

Several issues of the UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing series are addressing issues related to the contribution of older persons to sustainable development. The following are particularly relevant:

- Policy Brief No. 24 on Ageing in sustainable and smart cities (2020)
- Policy Brief No. 19 on Realizing the potential of living longer (2017)
- Policy Brief No. 18 on Older persons in rural and remote areas (2017)
- Policy Brief No. 12 on Images of older persons (2012)
- Policy Brief No. 10 on Tapping the potential of volunteering (2011)
- Policy Brief No. 4 on Integration and participation of older persons in society (2009)

All policies briefs, which are co-produced with members of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing, are available on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>.

In addition, a guidance note on the Meaningful participation of older persons and civil society in policymaking, published in 2021 is available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/UNECE%20meaningful%20participation%20guidance%20note.pdf>.

Focus area 2: Economic security

UNECE member States committed in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration to the goal of **ensuring ageing with dignity**, among others by:

- supporting the necessary infrastructure and assistance to prevent all types of abuse and violence against older persons, ensuring their economic, physical, and psychological safety

Countries also pledged to **recognize the potential of older persons**, including by:

- developing and implementing socially responsible and future-oriented economic and financial strategies that encompass the needs, capacities and expectations of current and future generations, while valuing the potential of older persons, their life experience, their responsibility and support for all generations and for society

Policy progress in the UNECE relevant to the focus area of economic security – third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in 2017

The regional synthesis report based on 45 national reports submitted for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in the UNECE region, provides information on progress relevant to the focus area of economic security during the period 2012 to 2016/2017 on pages 16 – 17 of the proceedings. The Statistical Annex provides data on the financial security of older persons on pages 78 – 81 of the proceedings.

The Proceedings of the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which contain the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, Synthesis Report and Statistical Annex are available on the UNECE website at https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Documents/Conference_Proceedings_Lisbon_Ministerial_Conference.pdf.

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Active Ageing Index

The Active Ageing Index includes indicators on the financial security of older persons. The most recent 2020 release of the Active Ageing Index for EU countries is available on the UNECE wiki: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/AAI/II.+Results>.

Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market

Relevant extracts from the 2017 Synthesis Report on this theme were already provided in our 2020 input. The Statistical Annex provides data on the participation in the labour market of women and men on pages 86 – 99 of the proceedings.

The following UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing address the topic of access to the labour market:

- Policy Brief No. 22 on the challenging roles of informal carers (2019)
- Policy Brief No. 21 on Combating ageism in the world of work (2019)
- Policy Brief No. 19 on Realizing the potential of living longer (2017)
- Policy Brief No. 13 on Active Ageing (2012)
- Policy Brief No. 9 on Age-friendly employment: policies and practice (2011)

<http://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>