



Panel Discussion on Accelerating the implementation of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific

Agenda Item 4: Follow-up to the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Wednesday, 7 September 2022, 10:00-10:50 hrs. (*Bangkok time*)
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok and online

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Sixty per cent of the world's older population 60 years or older reside in Asia and the Pacific. The region has been experiencing rapid population ageing, and the share of the older population is projected to increase further, from 14.3 per cent in 2022 to 26.0 per cent in 2050. This rapid pace means that many countries have little time to adapt to the consequence of population ageing.

From 29 June to 1 July 2022, member States and stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific reviewed and appraised the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing for the fourth time. At the intergovernmental meeting, they adopted an outcome document on accelerating its implementation in the region. They committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of older persons, to focusing on healthy ageing, to recognizing older persons as development actors and to promoting the right to work of older persons by providing productive employment and decent work under healthy, flexible and age-friendly conditions. They agreed to mainstreaming population ageing into national development strategies and plans and to ensuring that gender, disability and life course considerations are addressed.

Despite these commitments, older persons in the region, in particular women, continue to face the risk of not having access to social protection, universal health care and long-term care. For example, according to the latest data, in 27 out of 39 countries in the region for which data are available, less than half of the working age population is legally covered by mandatory contributory pension systems. For countries with pension coverage, benefit levels are often very low. Thus, older persons must continue to work, often in the informal sector, and they depend on family members for survival. Moreover, many older persons are isolated and experience neglect and abuse, which have been exacerbated due to COVID-19.

Building on the momentum of the recently held Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in Asia and the Pacific, the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development will provide an opportunity to discuss follow-up to the intergovernmental meeting.

OBJECTIVES

Panelists will share good practices and lessons learned in addressing population ageing. The discussion aims to identify priority issues and a way forward in making the outcome document of the Fourth Review and Appraisal actionable.

ORGANIZATION & SPEAKERS

The panel discussion will consist of short opening statements by panelists, followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A from the floor. The documentation for the agenda item is contained in ESCAP/CSD/2022/3 and ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1.

Moderator: Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

Panelists: H.E. Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi, Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives
Dr. Mary Ann Tsao, Chairperson and Founding Director, Tsao Foundation, Singapore

Ms. Alana Officer, Unit Head, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing, Department of Healthier Populations, World Health Organization