Joint Expert Group Meeting
Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity

Setting the Scene

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Overview of Intergenerational Solidarity in Relevant Policy Instruments

- **1995: World Summit for Social Development**

- **2002: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

- **2022-2023: 4th Review and Appraisal of MIPAA**
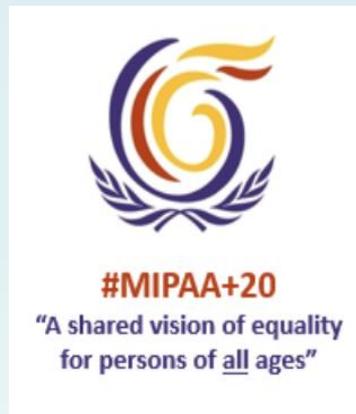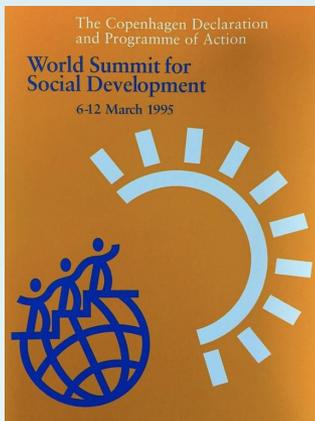
The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action

World Summit for Social Development

6-12 March 1995

7 years later

Second World Assembly on Ageing
2002
madrid

Second World Assembly on Ageing: Madrid, Spain • 8-12 April 2002

Political Declaration
and
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
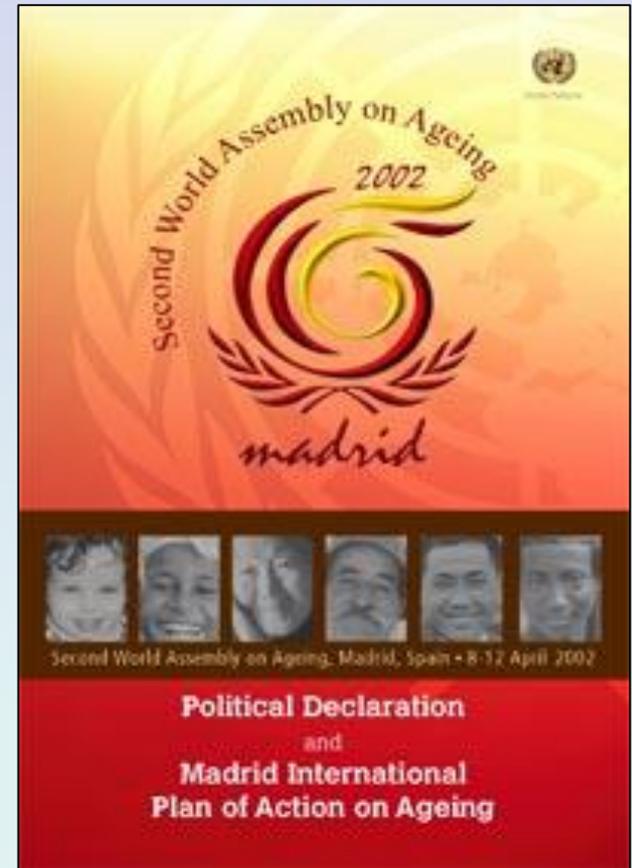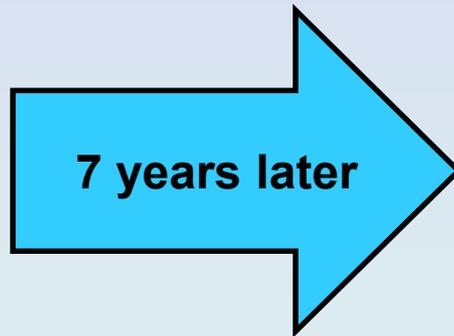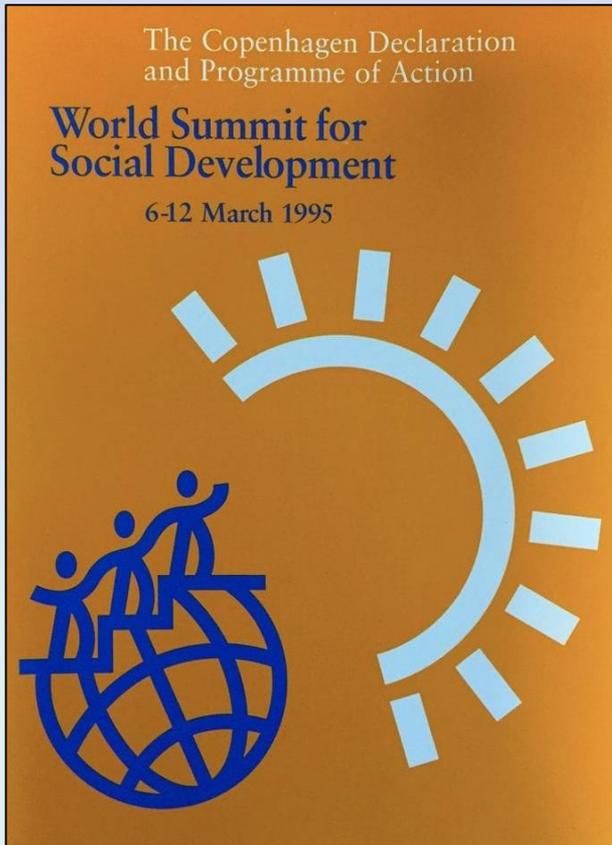
2002: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Bold:

Where once ageing may have been thought by some to be a stand-alone issue or afterthought, in 2002, the General Assembly understood that the demographic transformation had profound consequences for every aspect of individual, community, national and international life.

The First Time:

Governments put the issue of ageing and old age on the international agenda and agreed to link questions of ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights.

Three Objectives

MIPAA

OLDER PERSONS & DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCING HEALTH & WELL-BEING INTO OLD AGE

ENSURING ENABLING & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Intergenerational Solidarity and MIPAA

➢ **A central theme of MIPAA:** Recognition of the crucial importance of families, intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development.

➢ **A cross-cutting issue:** That affects all aspects of societal organization, human rights and development. It is a basis for population-level policy design, not just for intra-familial or localized activities.

➢ **Human rights and fundamental freedoms are needed** to achieve a <u>society for all ages</u>.
  – In this, the reciprocal relationship between and among generations must be nurtured, emphasized and encouraged through a comprehensive and effective dialogue.

➢ **Article 16 of MIPAA:** "We recognize the need to strengthen solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships, keeping in mind the particular needs of both older and younger ones, and to encourage mutually responsive relationships between generations."

➢ **MIPAA makes reference to one of the principles** in the Copenhagen Declaration: as it relates to the creation of a framework by Governments to fulfil their responsibility for <u>present and future generations</u> by ensuring equity across the generations.

MIPAA Priority Direction → #1. Older Persons and Development
Issue 5: Solidarity between generations at all levels

1. Solidarity between generations at all levels is fundamental for the achievement of a society for all.

2. Prerequisite for social cohesion and a foundation of formal public welfare and informal care systems.

3. Changing demographic, socio-economic circumstances require the adjustments of pensions, social security, health & LTC systems to sustain economic growth & development, and to ensure adequate and effective income maintenance and service provision.

4. Despite geographic mobility and other pressures of contemporary life that can keep people apart, the great majority of people in all cultures maintain close relations with their families throughout their lives.

5. All sectors of society, including Governments, should aim to strengthen those ties. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that living with younger generations is not always the preferred or best option for older persons.

MIPAA 4th Review and Appraisal
20-year milestone: Looking Back, Moving Forward

1. The principles and objectives of MIPAA have shown themselves to <u>remain valid.</u>

2. One of the most salient conclusions is that**: <u>Great disparities among and within regions</u>** exist in:
   - The rate of implementation of MIPAA;
   - In the focus of countries and regions around the issue of population ageing;
   - What constitutes emerging issues and ongoing challenges in each context.

3. Calls to accelerate the implementation of existing UN agreements in view of anticipated demographic trends, include improving our knowledge and understanding of the interests and needs of future generations.

<u>By 2050:</u>
- Older persons = 3x children under 5 years of age
- Older persons = 2/3 higher than youth

Longevity has increased in most countries

Globally, babies born in 2022 → life expectancy 72.3 years (average) 25 years longer than those born in 1950
Yet, the gap between countries with highest and lowest life expectancy = ~ 32 years

Percentage of population above 60 years old per country or area

<5%   5% to 10%   10% to 15%   >15%   No data

2022

2050
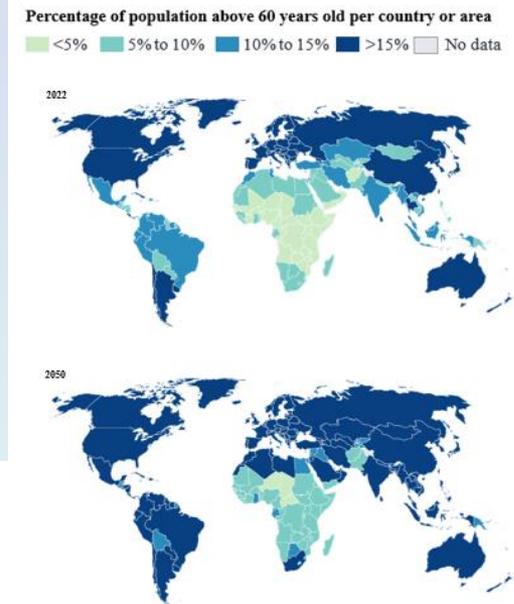
Produced by: the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC)
Source: DESA World Population Prospects 2022.
Boundaries shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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#MIPAA+20
"A shared vision of equality
for persons of all ages"

Global Fourth Review and Appraisal

Findings/Emerging Issues in MIPAA:
Implementation varies significantly within and among regions/countries

Active and meaningful participation in decision-making and in the ageing workforce

Eradication and prevention of poverty, weak social protection

More effort needed regarding emergency situations, climate change, digital revolution, rural development, migration, rapid urbanization

Lack of disaggregated age-data

Human rights and a legal instrument

Ageing in place

Access to knowledge, education, and training

Address UHC, limited access to health-care, long-term care concerns, care-work, mental health

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ESCAP 2021/2022: Member State priorities for implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, by priority area and objective

Number of countries that identified a priority

Older persons and development
1. Active participation in society and development — 7
2. Work and the ageing labour force — 5
3. Rural development, migration and urbanization — 4 ☹
4. Access to knowledge, education and training — 7
5. Intergenerational solidarity — 6
6. Eradication of poverty — 6
7. Income security, social protection/social security… — 6
8. Emergency situations — 5 ☹

Advancing health and well-being into old age
1. Health promotion and well-being throughout life — 9
2. Universal and equal access to health-care services — 8
3. Older persons and HIV/AIDS — 6 ☹
4. Training of care providers and health professionals — 10
5. Mental health needs of older persons — 9
6. Older persons with disabilities — 8

Ensuring enabling and supportive environments
1. Housing and the living environment — 8
2. Care and support for caregivers — 8
3. Neglect, abuse and violence — 7
4. Images of ageing — 5 ☹

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Intergenerational Solidarity in MIPAA
Global Fourth Review and Appraisal

Findings:

- Intergenerational solidarity → widely understood as social cohesion between generations.
- Viewpoints include it's importance as it relates to:
  - Transfer of indigenous knowledge
  - A focus on actions such as multigenerational dialogues, intergenerational learning, knowledge skills transfer, interactive digital skills training, cultural transmission.
  - Important for awareness raising, social and religious talk of older persons to young people.

Unclear: whether reported measures on intergenerational solidarity utilize a rights-based approach.

Guide: Highlights that rights principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and legality should inform all intergenerational activities.

Why is intergenerational solidarity important?

Crucial for sustainable development, where intergenerational solidarity goes beyond relations among the currently living representatives of different generations to embrace future generations that do not yet exist.

Concluding Thoughts on Intergenerational Solidarity Today

- There remains a common <u>cross-generational difference</u>:
  - people of different generations do not easily agree on what is best for the society.

- A common fallacy remains:
  - that work sharing between younger and older workers will allow younger persons to be employed more often if older workers retired early – although there are important differences across countries in this respect.

- More work needs to be done by governments to promote a better understanding between the young and the old.

- <u>2023 SDG Midpoint Review Findings - Intergenerational Solidarity:</u>
  - Systems today continue to take a fragmented approach.
  - The limited focus on a life course and intergenerational approach and inadequate access to training opportunities makes the quality of life and well-being of older persons more challenging.

Thank you for your attention