

Commission for Social Development Sixty-first session

Concept Note

High-level panel discussion on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Wednesday, 8 February 2023, 10:00am – 1:00pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 4



Background

The [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing](#) (MIPAA) was adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid, from 8 to 12 April 2002. Where once ageing may have been thought by some to be a stand-alone issue or afterthought, MIPAA offered a bold agenda representing the first time Governments agreed to link questions of ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights.

The General Assembly, in its [resolution 57/167](#), endorsed the Political Declaration as well as the Madrid Plan of Action, which contains the provision that a systematic review of its implementation by Member States is essential for improving the quality of life of older persons and that the Commission for Social Development is to be responsible for the follow-up and appraisal of that implementation. The Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal every five years.

The review and appraisal cycle commences at the national level and ascends to the regional level. The United Nations regional commissions play a critical role in supporting the review and appraisal exercise as they facilitate intraregional cooperation, provide regional forums and undertake regional reviews to ensure that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level inform the global review at the end of each cycle. Ensuring a bottom-up participatory approach to reviewing and appraising the implementation of MIPAA is essential and creates effective channels and mechanisms for participation and dialogue with various stakeholders and with older persons themselves.

The fourth review and appraisal:

The fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA took place pursuant to the Economic and Social Council [resolution 2020/8](#). As the Second World Assembly on Ageing approached its 20-year milestone, the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA provides a unique opportunity to generate renewed momentum for international action to advance the ageing agenda.

This review and appraisal cycle took place against the background of a devastating COVID-19 pandemic, which directly or indirectly cost the lives of over 12 million older persons in 24

months, with more than half in lower middle-income countries. Despite Governments operating in the context of navigating uncertainty and increased pressure on resources as they responded to the crisis, 4 out of 7 Member States participated in the fourth review and appraisal cycle, representing 84 per cent of where older persons reside worldwide.

The report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.5/2023/6](#) and Corrigendum [E/CN.5/2023/6/Corr.1](#) present the conclusions of the fourth review and appraisal exercise carried out by Member States and coordinated through the Regional Commissions. The full summary reports produced by Regional Commissions are available online at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/fourthreview/regional-reviews.html>

Objectives:

One of the most salient conclusions from the fourth review and appraisal is that great disparities among and within regions exist in the rate of implementation of MIPAA, in the focus of countries and regions around the issue of population ageing, and on what constitutes emerging issues and ongoing challenges in each context.

The main objective of the high-level panel is to provide more information, from a regional perspective, than could be shared in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of MIPAA and to stimulate an interactive discussion and facilitate an open exchange of views between all participants including Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The high-level panel aims to:

1. Position **MIPAA as relevant and forward looking at 20**, and that it provides a solid foundation to bring about the far-reaching social, economic, environmental and political changes that are needed to fully ensure the enjoyment of human rights by older persons.
2. Recognize that the findings of the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA represent **a critical moment to raise the ambition and urgency** needed to leapfrog from business as usual, to injecting political will that regenerates commitments, leverage policy and legislative change, optimizes resources and maximizes deliverables for older persons.
3. Accelerate action on promoting and protecting the human rights of older persons, including through efforts devoted to **developing an international legal instrument**.
4. Looking forward, **explore opportunities and pursue synergistic approaches** to accelerating the implementation of MIPAA and transitioning to sustainable development in the lead up to SDG Summit.
5. Draw upon growing interest among Member States, including recent resolutions of the General Assembly on the Summit of the Future and the proposed World Social Summit, to encourage the **launch of multistakeholder partnerships to promote full and equal participation by older persons** wherein their perspectives and expertise in identifying

challenges, opportunities and solutions would inform and support efforts towards achieving the Global Goals.

6. Consider the **institutional mechanisms, good practices, digital technologies, and implementation tools** identified in the national and regional levels of the fourth review and appraisal in accelerating the implementation of MIPAA.
7. Build momentum to **support the means of implementation** of MIPAA.

Structure and format of the panel discussion:

The panel aims to commemorate the 20-year milestone, engage multistakeholder perspectives and capture expertise and experiences gathered from a regional perspective. The panel consists of members nominated by the Regional Commissions. The outcomes of the discussions will be reflected in the Chair’s summary.

Provisional Agenda

Opening remarks	H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani , Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of the sixty-first session Li Junhua , Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
Keynote	Alexandre Sidorenko , Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and former Chair of DESA Programme on Ageing <i>MIPAA+20: Looking Back, Moving Forward</i>
Moderator	Daniel Zavala Porras , Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations and Vice-Chair of the sixty-first session
Panel members	Emem Omokaro , Director General, National Senior Citizens Centre, Nigeria Alfredo Ferrante , Chair of the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, Italy Paula Narváez Ojeda , Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and Vice President of ECOSOC Mohammad Meqdady , Secretary-General, Council of Family Affairs, Jordan Aishath Mohamed Didi , Minister of Gender and Social Affairs, Maldives and Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal Carole Osero-Ageng'o , Representative of a Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) Member Organization, HelpAge International Heidrun Mollenkopf , Sociologist and Gerontologist, Germany
Moderated interactive discussion	Q&A
Key takeaways	Panel members and moderator
Closing	H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani , Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of the sixty-first session

Bios of Nominated Speakers



Alexandre Sidorenko

Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and former Chair of DESA Programme on Ageing

Alexandre is an international expert on policy and programmes on ageing, including advisory services and training in Eastern European countries and countries of the former Soviet Union. Previously, he was the Head of the United Nations Programme on Ageing. His major responsibilities during his 21 years of work for the United Nations had involved the coordination of the United Nations activities in the area of ageing, including promoting and monitoring the international policy and programmes on ageing. Sidorenko was leading the substantive preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain in 2002 and its follow up activities.



Emem Omokaro

Director General, National Senior Citizens Centre, Nigeria

Emem is the Director General of the National Senior Citizens Centre in Nigeria. Prior to this position, Emem was a policy analyst who had worked extensively in Nigeria to establish strategic participatory platforms and mechanisms that have advanced national action on ageing in the field of policy, education and research. Her pro-active stakeholders' engagements have built alliances, enhanced multi-sectoral institutional capacity and fueled momentum in advocacy, legislation and ageing mainstreaming. She holds a Ph.D. in Development Sociology from the University of Calabar, Nigeria, with an award-winning dissertation that interrogated the quality of care of Nigeria's older persons.



Alfredo Ferrante

Chair of the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing

Alfredo is the Chair of Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA), an intergovernmental body, which is subsidiary to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Alfredo has worked in the Italian Government since 2002 as Head of Unit. He is interested in several issues at national and international level such as public policies in social affairs such as policies for persons with disabilities, sustainability and social responsibility as well as the reform of public sector. Alfredo was the former Chair of the Committee of the rights of persons with disabilities (CAHDPH) at the Council of Europe.



Paula Narváez Ojeda
Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and Vice President of ECOSOC

Paula is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and the Vice president of ECOSOC. She presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 8 June 2022. Before this latest appointment, Paula was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala, from February to May 2022. She also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2018, Paula was Minister Secretary General of Government, and she served as a Presidential Adviser from 2014 to 2016. From 2012 until 2014, she was a Latin America and Caribbean Section Program Specialist at UN-Women, based in New York. Following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in Chile in May 2008, Paula served as the delegate of then-President Michelle Bachelet to the Chaitén Volcano Emergency, from 2008 to 2009. She has also held a number of other Government positions. Paula earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in the United States; a master's degree in economics and regional management from the Universidad Austral de Chile.



Mohammad Meqdady
Secretary-General, Council of Family Affairs, Jordan

Mohamed is the Secretary-General of the National Council for Family Affairs in Jordan. In his work, Mohamed focuses on women and their economic empowerments as well as on early childhood issues. The Council, under Mohammed's leadership, was the public authority that led the development of the Older Persons Strategy in Jordan.



Aishath Mohamed Didi

**Minister of Gender and Social Affairs, Maldives and
Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-
Pacific Review and Appraisal**

Aishath is the Minister of Gender and Social Affairs in the Maldives. She served in various positions as the Ambassador/High Commissioner of Maldives in India, as well as Minister of Gender and Family between 2005 and 2008, in addition to several other civil and public affairs positions throughout her career. Aishath's experience includes positions as Chair of Gender Equality Council, Chair of Children's Home Governing Board, Chair of the Council for the Rights of the Child, Member of the United Nations Task Force on Youth and Adolescents and as Member of the United Nations Task Force on Gender. Aishath served as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.



Carole Osero-Ageng'o

**Representative of a Global Alliance for the Rights of
Older People (GAROP) Member Organization, HelpAge
International**

Carole is a representative of HelpAge International, a member organization of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP). The Global Alliance is a network of over 400 organisations from across the world who have come together to strengthen and promote the rights of older persons. The mission of the Global Alliance is to support and enhance civil society's engagement at national, regional and international levels on the need for a new international instrument on the rights of older persons. GAROP seeks a world in which older persons live free from discrimination and are able to fully enjoy their rights. GAROP's core values are partnership with, inclusion of, and the promotion of participation by older people in decisions that affect their lives. The Global Alliance

respects the rights of all persons regardless of age, race, color, disability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, political views, national or social origin, class and birth or property status. Carole is a multilingual human rights lawyer and gender expert. In her current role of Lead, Global Initiatives & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International, she continues to lead in policy advocacy for the rights of older persons in Africa and linking this to strategic initiatives at global level for greater impact.



Heidrun Mollenkopf
Sociologist and Gerontologist, Germany

Heidrun is a sociologist and a gerontologist. She was one of the first sociologists to focus scientific research on the use of technology to improve the quality of life in old age. She is a board member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO). At the age of 82 years, Heidrun co-lead the organizing committee of the first Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research, entitled “A fulfilling life throughout the life-course: a joint effort of civil society and research in policy making.”