



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Key messages and recommendations of the Stakeholders Dialogue 10 May 2022

In preparation for the fourth Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) review in the Arab region and based on the participatory approach adopted in the review preparation process including the regional review conference, ESCWA organized, in partnership with UNFPA, a stakeholders meeting that gathered representatives of human rights associations, civil society organizations and the private sector, academics and other stakeholders involved in older persons' issues in the Arab region.

This meeting aimed to share knowledge and experiences on the role and contributions of stakeholders and discuss challenges they face and their role in advocating for older persons' issues and responding to their priorities in the Arab region. It highlighted achievements, ongoing efforts and innovative practices aimed at maximizing benefits for all, and concluded with several policy recommendations and messages, as follows:

Institutional arrangements, data and partnerships

1. Integrate older persons' issues into the various sectors and adopt a participatory and innovative process that helps to consolidate efforts and foster coordination among all stakeholders.
2. Develop and collect data on older persons, verify the data quality and accessibility using modern technological tools, and link these data not only to statistical offices but also to an integrated national statistical system.
3. Support quantitative and qualitative scientific research on older persons, enhance researchers' capabilities, allocate financial resources to them and facilitate their work through measures that include providing them with necessary permits.
4. Establish national networks involving all stakeholders such as the public sector, civil society organizations and older persons themselves, promote participatory work and consolidate efforts among them to advocate for older persons' issues and realize benefits in this regard.
5. Build the capacity of all non-governmental actors to respond to older persons' issues, promote awareness, and allocate the financial and human resources needed for this response.
6. Establish a core regional network of actors involved in older persons' issues in various Arab countries to foster the exchange of knowledge, cooperation and advocacy on these issues.

Older persons and development

1. Empower older persons to benefit from their experiences, enhance their economic participation, ensure decent working conditions for them, guarantee their inclusion in social protection systems, reduce their sense of exclusion and protect them.
2. Integrate older persons into crisis response plans in a manner that responds to their needs in emergencies, particularly during crises, wars and occupation.

3. Invest in older persons' potential and change the mindset and cultural norms among older persons themselves and in society at large; and mainstream ageing in educational curricula to break the stereotype for the new generation and consolidate intergenerational solidarity.
4. Support and intensify lifelong learning and technological literacy programmes.

Health services and the quality of life of older persons

1. Adopt a life-cycle approach that takes into account older persons' age and social status; and develop interlinked and consistent health programmes and services that reflect the multiple health dimensions and their correlations.
2. Develop policies and programmes that respond to the health needs of older persons and ensure various forms of care for them, including hospital care, primary health care and home-based care that requires providing training for medical and nursing staff, and reducing out-of-pocket expenditure.
3. Develop data on the health of older persons.

Ageing in place and the enabling environment

1. Address the challenges posed by demographic shifts, which affect the family's ability to provide services and care for older persons; create an enabling environment for older persons to encourage ageing in place; and build a long-term care system as a supporting tool to the family and an alternative when the family is not available.
2. Strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting ageing in place by providing companionship care for older persons and building the capacity of caregivers to deliver home-based and health services, among others.
3. Strengthen the role of the media in promoting older persons' issues to break the negative stereotype associated with older persons and highlight their productive abilities.
4. Apply legislation to combat discrimination, age-based violence and abuse of older persons, particularly women, at the government, community and family levels, and develop studies and statistics on violence against older persons.