The 4th Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Arab Region

Regional Review Conference

1-2 June 2022

Organization of Work

Day 1: Wednesday 1 June 2022	
9:30 - 10:00	**Registration and welcome coffee**
10:00 - 10:30	**Opening session** - Dr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA - Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, UNFPA-ASRO (Virtual)
10:30 - 11:00	**Setting the Scene: MIPAA and the fourth regional review in the Arab Region** - Dr. Sara Salman, Population Affairs Officer, ESCWA
11:00 - 12:00	**Session 1: MIPAA+20: Voluntary reporting by Members States** This session will provide Member States with the opportunity to reflect on the progress made to empower and protect older persons since the last regional MIPAA review in 2017. Member States are invited to present on their national experiences, highlighting the challenges faced, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned. **Chair:** H.E. Mr. Fadi Salti Al Khalil, Head of Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syrian Arab Republic **Speakers (5 minutes each)** - H.E. Dr. Mohamed Miqdadi, Secretary General, National Council for Family Affairs, Jordan - H.E. Hessa Tahlak, Assistant Under Secretary of Social Development, Ministry of Community Development, United Arab Emirates (Virtual) - Ms. Iman Ben Cheikh, Director of Older Persons, Ministry of Family, Women, Children and Seniors, Tunisia, - Mr. Jamal El Nil Abdallah Mansour, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development, Sudan

	- Ms. Hayat Hussein El Mitayri, Director of Older Persons, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Iraq
	- Ms. Fatima Abdulaziz Al Kaabi, Researcher, of International Conferences and Agreements, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Qatar
	- Mr. Mohamed Omar El Kamary, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Undersecretary of the State Council, Egypt
	- Mr. Hussein Albehbah, Under Secretary for Persons with Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Libya
	General Discussion
12:00 - 12:15	Coffee Break
12:15 - 13:30	**Session 2: MIPAA+20: Voluntary reporting by Members States (Cont'd)**
	This session will provide Member States with the opportunity to reflect on the progress made to empower and protect older persons since the last regional MIPAA review in 2017. Member States are invited to present on their national experiences, highlighting the challenges faced, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned.
	Chair: H.E. Dr. Mohamed Miqdadi, Secretary General, National Council for Family Affairs, Jordan
	Speakers (5 minutes):
	- H.E. Fadi Salti Al Khalil, Head of Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syrian Arab Republic
	- Mr. Ghanem Omar, Director, Older Persons Directorate, Ministry of Social Development, Palestine
	- Mr. Hocein Abdel Hakim, Director, Protection of Older Persons Department, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Family, and Women Issues Algeria (Virtual)
	- Mr. Hamad Saleh Al Khaldi, Director of Elderly Care Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Kuwait (Virtual)
	- Ms. Fernande Abi Haydar, Interim Head of the Department of Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon
	- Ms. Malika Qalbi, Head of the Department for the Protection of the Elderly, Directorate of Family, Child and Elderly Protection, Ministry of Solidarity, Social Inclusion and Family, Morocco
	- Ms. Safia Bent Mohamed Al Omairiya, Deputy Director, Directorate of Older Persons, General Directorate for Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, Oman

	- Dr. Hoda Al Naim, Head of the Seniors Committee, Family Affairs Council. Saudi Arabia (Virtual) **General Discussion**
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:00	**Session 3: Reporting from Stakeholders** Achieving MIPAA's objectives rests on ensuring the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the media. In this session the speakers will present the outcome and key messages of the parliamentary dialogue and the multistakeholder dialogue that ESCWA organized in partnership with UNFPA as part of the MIPAA regional review process. **Chair:** Dr. Inaya Ezzeddine, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee, Lebanon **Speakers:** - Dr. Jihad Fadel, Member of Parliament, Bahrain (Virtual) - Dr. Nabil Kronfol, Expert on ageing, Lebanon **General Discussion**

15:00-16:00	**Session 4: Social protection and health insurance: priorities for ageing with dignity**
	
	Non-inclusive social protection systems and health insurance schemes in most Arab countries, heightens the vulnerability of large groups of older persons today and in the future to income insecurity, poverty, and illness. It is critical that Arab governments rethink their social protection systems to ensure dignified ageing for all.
	
	Moderator: Ms. Maha Abou Chawareb, Director, Foyer Saint Georges
	
	Speakers (7 minutes each):
	- Social assistance to older persons: the case of Takaful and Karama
	  Mr. Mohamed Omar El Kamary, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt
	- Social protection in Mauritania: reflections and the way forward
	  Dr. Oum Kaltoum Sidi Hamdino, President of Mauritanian Network for Social Action, Mauritania (Virtual)
	- Health insurance in the Arab region: areas for development
	  Dr. Markus Loewe, Research team leader, Sustainable Economic and Social Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) (Virtual)

	- The role of private sector in advancing social protection in the Arab region Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim, CEO of Fintech Robos, Bahrain
	- The role of private sector in promoting healthy longevity Mr. Peter Rundlet, Vice President, International Affairs, AARP (virtual)
	General Discussion
16:00 – 17:00	**Session 5: Advancing the long-term care economy in the Arab region** A key indicator of the level of development and its impact on well-being of older persons is the capacity to provide enabling and supportive environments that promote ageing in place. Many programmes and efforts to promote ageing in place, home care, de-institutionalization and care within the community continue to expand in ESCWA member States. In this session, the panelists from different Arab Countries discuss this concept and present some initiatives to promote ageing in place such as surrogate family programmes, training of informal caregivers, and Age friendly cities. **Moderator:** Ms. Lina Alqurah – Consultant, HelpAge International **Speakers (7 minutes each):** - Developing long term economy as a pre-requisite for ageing in place Dr. Shireen Hussein, Professor of Health and Social Care Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the United Kingdom. (Virtual) - Dignity of older persons with mental health conditions Dr. Hamed Sinawi, Senior Consultant, Department of Behavioral Medicine, Oman Alzheimer's Society, (Virtual) - Building the capacity of informal caregivers for older persons Dr. Hala Sweed, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Egypt - Foster Families, the case of Algeria Mr. Hocein Abdel Hakim, Director, Protection of Older Persons department, Algeria (Virtual) - Providing job opportunities for the youth in long term care: experiences from the region. Ms. Aymeline Garnier, Health Project Manager, Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement, Morocco **General Discussion**
Day 2: Thursday 2 June 2022	
10:00 - 11:30	**Session 6: High-level panel on mainstreaming ageing in policy making in the Arab region** Countries today recognize the challenges facing older people in a rapidly ageing world and attempt to seize opportunities associated with the ageing phenomenon. As a result, several Arab countries developed older persons policies and strategies.

	However, older persons continue to face an increased risk of being left behind and policy making relating to older persons remains fragmented in most Arab countries and do not respond to the needs of older persons today nor prepare for the quickly increasing numbers and proportions of older persons in the near future. This high-level panel reflects on some experiences across the region on mainstreaming ageing in policy making, the lessons learnt and means to move forward with pushing the ageing agenda at the policy level across all sectors. **Moderator**: Dr. Hoda Rashad, Director of the Social Research Center, American University in Cairo **Speakers:** - H.E. Judge Salar Abdul Sattar Mohammed, Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Iraq - H.E. Hessa Bint Essa Buhumaid, Minister of Community Development, United Arab Emirates (virtual) - Intervention of H.E. Ayman Al Mufleh, Minister of Social Development, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Walid Al Hadid, Jordan - H.E Samar Sibaii, Head of the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic - Mr. Assem Khamis, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Palestine - Judge Abdullah Ahmad, General director, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon - Mr. Jamal El Nil Abdallah Mansour, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development, Sudan - H.E. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States **General Discussion**
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 13:00	**Session 7: Accelerating the implementation of MIPAA in the Arab Region** Discussions in this session will focus on what is needed to ensure that progress is accelerated in implementing MIPAA and achieving its objectives. Issues to be discussed include, means to engage older persons meaningfully in their societies, building human resources, and developing age sensitive data to ensure evidence-based and responsive policy making, **Moderator**: Mr. Ahmad Abdennadher, Consultant on Ageing and Population **Speakers:**

	- Lifelong learning to enable and engage older persons Ms. Maya Abi Chahine, Programme Director of University of Seniors, American University of Beirut, Lebanon (Virtual) - Developing geriatrics and human resources: An urgent priority for better health care for older persons Dr. Husam Ghusn, Medical Director of Ain Wazein Medical Village, Head of Geriatrics Department Lebanese University, Lebanon (Virtual) - The role of Media in promoting older persons priorities and breaking the stereotypes Ms. Nidal Al Achkar, Artist and founder of the Al Madina Theatre, Lebanon - Employment after retirement: initiatives to engages older persons in the labour market. Mr. Khaled Matoussi, Director of Protection, Planning and Training, Ministry of Family, Women, Children and Seniors, Tunisia, - Building data on older persons for evidence-based policy making: the case of the National Observatory for Older Persons Dr. Abdel Latif Lefrakh, expert and statistician, Morocco (Virtual) **General Discussion**
13:00-13:30	**Knowledge Exchange** This session will serve to introduce the participants to the latest of ESCWA's and UNFPA knowledge products. It will also serve to launch ESCWA's latest report: the 9th edition of the Population and Development Report: Building Forward Better for Older Persons in the Arab Region. During the Q&A, participants are also encouraged to flag the latest of the relevant knowledge products for the benefit of the audience. - Launch of 9th edition of the Population and Development Report - Video on ESCWA's Policy Toolkit on Mainstreaming Ageing in Policy Making. - UNFPA Presentation **General Discussion**
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:00	**Presentation of Key Messages** This session will present the key messages and recommendations that emanated from the two-day discussions.
15:00-15:30	**Closing remarks and the way forward**