

Consultative Meeting on Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on
Ageing at the National Level
Bangkok, Thailand, 28 November – 1 December 2006

Organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the participation of the sub-regional office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Background

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2002, calls on the international development community to assist developing countries and countries in transition in its implementation. DSPD/DESA is the focal point on ageing for the UN system and is charged with facilitating the Plan's implementation and advocating means to mainstream ageing into development policy.

One of the key objectives of the Madrid Plan of Action is to promote a developmental approach to population ageing through the mainstreaming of older persons into international and national development plans and policies across all sectors. The Plan states that mainstreaming ageing and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies is “a necessary first step in the successful implementation of the Plan” (para. 116)

In December 2003, an Interregional Consultative Meeting on measures for national implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) was held in Vienna, Austria. The overall objective of the meeting was to identify key issues and measures necessary to promote the implementation of MIPAA at the national level through mainstreaming of ageing into development agendas and policies. At the conclusion of this Meeting, a proposal to begin a pilot technical assistance programme to build the national capacity of Member States present at the meeting who request assistance, was agreed upon. As a result, during the course of 2004-2005, advisory missions took place to Egypt, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, and Senegal, where activities including rapid needs assessments, stakeholder meetings, capacity building workshops and strategic planning exercises were carried out in support of national capacity building on ageing.

In Kyrgyzstan a needs assessment was undertaken by DESA staff in collaboration with the Ministry for Labour and Social Protection. Meetings were held with government officials in several ministries at the central level, and also officials at the regional and local levels; international development agencies such as UNDP and WHO, as well as key NGOs in the country dealing with older persons and older persons themselves. The connections between the various regions and institutional levels as well as the linkages between different stakeholders gave an overall picture of the approach to ageing issues in Kyrgyzstan and the strengths and weaknesses of the policy environment. Key issues were identified by DESA staff and presented and discussed at a meeting of stakeholders where plans were also mapped out for future action by the Government and further

capacity building requirements, leading toward the future formulation of a comprehensive national programme of action on ageing.

At the end of 2005, the General Assembly approved financing under the Development Account for a capacity building project to continue these earlier initiatives. The project will enhance the capacity of stakeholders in two countries each within three sub-regions (West Africa, Central Asia and the Caribbean) to integrate ageing issues in national development frameworks through advocacy, competency-based training and the training-of-trainers with a long-term view towards further sub-regional expansion from additional funding sources. A web-based network will enhance knowledge and skills sharing and the development of a toolkit will be used to expand the methodology and experience gained within this project to other countries. The first activity under this project is an interregional meeting that will bring participating countries together to provide a group-based launch to the project with the following objective and activities:

Objectives

The overall objective of the meeting is for participants to fully understand project methodologies, participate in overall planning and scheduling of activities.

The meeting will specifically:

- review the outcomes and impact of previous DESA technical assistance initiatives in Kyrgyzstan and Senegal;
- introduce stakeholders from new countries joining the project (Cameroon, Grenada, Kazakhstan, Trinidad and Tobago) - discuss their policy situation on ageing;
- Establish a project Task Force and draw up terms of reference;
- Brainstorm requirements/methodologies of needs assessments, capacity building initiatives and project impact assessment;
- Agree on a broad outline of training needs for individual countries;
- Agree on substantive requirements for the establishment of the web-based networks.
- Review a first draft of a toolkit for implementation of MIPAA
- establish a common understanding by participants of the methodology to be employed in the project and secure their participation for project activities in their country.

Participants

One government and one civil society representative from the following countries:

Senegal
Cameroon
Kyrgyzstan
Kazakhstan

Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada

It is requested that Governmental participants be mid-level officials with responsibility for policy implementation and monitoring on ageing. They will become the focal point within the Government for this project's activities and follow-up.