

# **Views of Member States and Permanent Observers on How to Improve the Implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action (MIPAA)**

**Source: Report of the Secretary General,  
Further Implementation MIPAA, November 29, 2009**

**Prepared by Global Action on Aging, April 2010**

In July 2009, Member States of the United Nations received a note verbale inviting them to provide their views on whether the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action could be strengthened if the rights of older persons were recognized as one of the priority themes. They were further requested to consider various approaches for promoting that priority. Respondents were also invited to provide views on the procedure for the future review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action. 55 responses were received.

## **General conclusions of survey**

50 Member States agreed that the implementation of MIPAA could be strengthened if the rights of older persons were recognized as one of the priority themes of MIPAA. A few stated that MIPAA is a commitment to promote the rights of older persons and emphasized the importance of the right to development. Some Member States indicated that a focus on rights would facilitate the development of specific initiatives to support the independence and empowerment of older persons. There was close to universal support for ensuring that the human rights of older persons are promoted and protected. However, more discussion is needed on the most appropriate way to ensure that protection.

## **Views of each Member States**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Opinion on the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the rights of older persons</b>	<b>Opinion on the establishment of a regular working group on older persons and ageing during CSD</b>	<b>Opinion on the development of a new legal mechanism (a convention on the rights of older persons)</b>	<b>Opinion on the idea of recognizing the rights of older persons as one of the priority themes</b>
Algeria		In favor. The group would promote the involvement of Member States in the implementation of different texts and instruments relating to older persons. It could also promote comment agreement among members of the international community.		
Argentina	In favor. The mandate of the special rapporteur should be established through comprehensive and inclusive negotiations among all Member States. He/she would act as a catalyst for best practices,		Strongly in favor. Argentina believes that there is added value in an international legally-binding instrument. It would standardize the rights of older persons and establish accountability mechanisms.	

	strengthening international technical cooperation on ageing.			
Armenia		In favor. The discussions in the working group could produce proposals on how to improve the situation of older persons by implementing different mechanisms and if necessary developing new legislation.		
Aruba	N/A			
Australia	In favor. A Special Rapporteur could put forward the rights of older persons in accordance with MIPAA and relevant existing human rights convention.			
Austria	In favor. The Special Rapporteur would serve as an advocate and watchdog to promote respect for the rights of older persons globally.	In favor. The group would monitor the implementation of MIPAA and prepare the next review and appraisal in 2012.		

Bahrain	N/A			
Barbados	N/A			
Belarus	In favor.	In favor.	In favor.	
Belize	In favor.	In favor.	In favor.	
Brazil	In favor. The Special Rapporteur could do a study on the rights of older persons in national and regional contexts. The study could be used to establish consensus on the need for a convention.	In favor.		Older persons have special needs and vulnerabilities that are not adequately covered under existing human rights instruments and that MIPAA cannot provide a basis for the formulation and implementation of national and international public policies from a human rights perspective.
Bulgaria	N/A			
Burkina Faso				Focus on human rights is an opportunity to move beyond generalities and to address specific issues for older persons.
Chile			In favor. A convention would complement MIPAA by eliminating the normative gap in current international legal instruments.	
China	N/A			
Colombia	In favor. The rights of			

	older persons would be strengthened globally by the appointment of a special rapporteur, who would encourage countries to work on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons. He/she could achieve a new political consensus and open up a social dialogue that would improve the situation of older persons.			
Costa Rica	In favor.	In favor.	In favor.	
Cuba			In favor. It is important to establish a reference point, with consensus of Member States, that would allow the extension and universality of the rights of older persons.	
Cyprus				The focus on human rights will lead to a more holistic approach to the implementation of MIPAA.
Czech Republic	N/A			

Democratic People's Republic of Korea	N/A			
Denmark		Not in favor.	Not in favor.	Does not agree that the priority focus should be on human rights. According to Denmark, MIPAA and the Berlin and Leon Ministerial Declarations are sufficient policy documents and there is no necessity for a special rapporteur or convention or a focus on human rights.
Ecuador				The promotion, protection and defense of the human rights of older persons are a fundamental prerequisite to the construction of a more just society.
Fiji	In favor. The Special Rapporteur could monitor the implementation of MIPAA.			
Finland		In favor. A working group would bring continuity to the		

		implementation of MIPAA. The group could discuss the kind of legal mechanism or instruments that would be most effective to implement MIPAA and promote the rights of older persons.		
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				Supports a focus on human rights as a priority but also mentioned the issue of the empowerment of older persons.
France				Does not agree that the priority focus should be on human rights. The fight against discrimination in general already ensured the rights of older persons. France suggest that efforts should focus on intergenerational solidarity.
Greece				MIPAA is not just a text but a philosophy and the cornerstone to building a society for all ages.
Iraq			In favor. It is essential to	

			develop a convention which would address a growing population group in need of health care, social services, employment and social inclusion.	
Lebanon	In favor. He/she could provide expert advice and other assistance to Member States to develop, finance and legislate support systems for older persons.			
Mali	In favor. The rapporteur could take recommendations from the regional review meetings to the national level to promote further implementation of MIPAA.		In favor. A convention would improve the situation of older persons and lead to their further involvement in the wider society.	
Malta	N/A			
Mexico		In favor. The group could determine the priorities to empower older persons, promote their rights and sensitize the public to		



		their situation		
Moldova		In favor. The working group would facilitate the exchange of national and international good practices on the protection of the rights of older persons.		
Monaco				Does not agree that the priority focus should be on human rights. The fight against discrimination in general already ensured the rights of older persons.
Namibia	N/A			
New Zealand	Open to discussion.			
Oman				A focus on human rights will lead to the provision of the facilities necessary for the promotion of social integration.
Panama				MIPAA is an international commitment to protect the rights of older persons. Panama is acting accordingly in the development of its

				national legislation.
Peru	In favor. The special rapporteur could help to promote more effective implementation of MIPAA.	In favor. A working group could be established in 2010 and operational in 2011.	In favor. But elaborating a Convention will take time.	
Philippines	Recommended the establishment of a separate office on the protection of the rights of older persons under the UN umbrella.			Agree that the human rights of older persons are a priority. However, human rights should not just be one priority theme but an overall reference framework in the development and implementation of all priority themes.
Portugal		In favor. A group could identify areas where policy coordination required strengthening and share best practices.		Agrees that the rights of older persons could be a priority theme for implementation. However, Portugal points out that some countries have moved beyond the stage of ensuring the rights of older persons. Many Governments face resource constraints, and have been unable to complete priorities and mainstreaming ageing into the wider policy arena. Portugal suggested that, if those issues could be

				resolved, MIPAA could be a much better tool for the protection of rights “already clearly recognized in several human rights treaties and other international instruments”.
Qatar			In favor. The results of the review and appraisal of MIPAA must be consolidated by the CSD to realize the objectives and reveal the obstacles to the implementation of MIPAA. This could constitute the standards to achieve a convention.	
Romania		In favor. The working group would gather the perspectives of Member States to elaborate a new legal instrument.		
Russian Federation	The CSD should play a central role in improving the situation of older persons. Any human rights instruments should be decided through discussions in that forum.			
Saint Lucia		In favor. This group could lead to the development of a legal		

		instrument that would set out responsibilities and establish accountability.		
Slovakia	N/A			
Spain				The recognition of the rights of older persons is a step forward in improving the protection of their rights.
Switzerland				Does not agree that the priority focus should be on human rights. According to Switzerland, a report on a social policy theme should not necessarily serve as a vehicle to promote a normative approach to the rights of older persons.
Togo			In favor. A convention would enable States Parties to recognize the growing numbers of older persons and take early action to protect their rights.	
Tunisia				The recognition of the rights of older persons enables Governments to move ahead in developing legislation, with

				the requisite budgets for strategies and programs that will promote social cohesion.
Uruguay	In favor. Adequate mechanism to work on the rights of older persons in the short term.	In favor. Adequate mechanism to work on the rights of older persons in the short term.	In favor. Adequate mechanism to work on the rights of older persons in the medium to long term.	
Viet Nam	N/A			
Permanent Observer of the Holy See		In favor. This group could lead to the development of a legal instrument that would set out responsibilities and establish accountability.		
Permanent Observer of Palestine	N/A			