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Ninety-sixth meeting

Geneva, 30 January 2018

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to the Working Group

on Ageing:

decisions on matters relating to the Working Group on Ageing

Decisions on matters relating to the Working Group on Ageing

Background

1. On 21–22 September 2017, the fourth Ministerial Conference on Ageing was held in Lisbon, Portugal, entitled “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”. In the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration (Lisbon, 22 September 2017), member States of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) acknowledged “that the UNECE Working Group on Ageing has proven its added value as an intergovernmental body that provides an institutional framework for the exchange of information and good practice and for engaging stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community, in ageing-related policy making”. Member States further reaffirmed their commitment to “actively participate in the Working Group for the implementation of the UNECE [Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing] RIS/MIPAA and [to] contribute to its activities” (ECE/AC.30/2017/2/Rev.1, Annex 1, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 38).

2. At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 23–24 November 2017), the Working Group on Ageing discussed its work programme for the fourth cycle of implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy, 2018–2022. It adopted the programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018–2019, as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2017/5.

3. The Executive Committee is invited to approve:

(a) the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on Ageing for the period 2018–2022 and its terms of reference, as contained in the Annex;

(b) the programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018–2019.

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Draft Decision

4. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on Ageing for the period 2018–2022 and its terms of reference, as contained in the Annex to the present document, and the programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018–2019, as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2017/5.

Annex

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Ageing

1. The Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body, which is subsidiary to the UNECE Executive Committee.
 2. The mandate of the Working Group extends throughout the five-year cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, i.e 2018–2022. It will submit a full report on its accomplishments over the five years with interim annual reports to the Executive Committee. After receiving these reports, the Executive Committee will review the activities of the Working Group and decide whether to renew its mandate for the next cycle.
 3. The Working Group meets annually. In between the sessions its work is guided by the Bureau as provided by section VI of the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies. The Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau are serviced by the UNECE secretariat.
 4. Members of the Working Group are the representatives of national authorities dealing with ageing in the UNECE member States.
 5. The aims of the Working Group are:
 - (a) to contribute to the effective implementation of commitments taken by member States at international meetings on ageing, particularly the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the León Ministerial Declaration (2007), the Vienna Ministerial Declaration (2012) and the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration (2017);
 - (b) to provide direction and guidance to the UNECE work in the field of ageing;
 - (c) to promote international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries;
 - (d) to promote awareness of ageing and its implications throughout the UNECE region;
 - (e) to create synergies within and outside UNECE.
 6. The Working Group builds, among others, on the experience and work of the national focal points on ageing.
 7. The Working Group cooperates and determines its activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing, to avoid duplication, and to focus on challenges of specific interest to UNECE member States. It promotes cooperation with international organizations and encourages partnership among the public and private sectors in addressing the implications of population ageing.
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