



Standing Working Group on Ageing



Edmundo Martinho, SWGA Chair, Portugal

**UNECE Executive Committee
115th meeting
Geneva, 5 March 2021**

Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA)

ECOSOC 2020/19: Working Group on Ageing → Standing Working Group

- Works to improve policymaking in accordance with the principles of the **MIPAA/RIS** and **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- In 2018-2022, focuses on the priorities outlined in **2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and SDGs**
- Works towards **integrating population ageing and MIPAA/RIS** with the national/regional follow-up on 2030 Agenda and other relevant global programmes



SWGA – grounded in international cooperation, exchange of experience & policy discussion on ageing and intergenerational relations

SWGGA: Covid-19 impact and response

Early impact of Covid-19 on ageing-related policies and measures

- Increased recognition of vulnerability of older persons in emergency situations and the dysfunctions of the long-term care systems
- Faster business and social innovation to warrant continuity of long-term care and social services

SWGGA response in 2020 – specific and cross-cutting activities

Resources

webpage on Covid-19 and older persons

SWGGA & Bureau meetings - **online & hybrid format** - addressed impact of Covid-19

Dedicated **policy seminar & policy brief**

Adjusted **capacity development**

In 2021, reflecting lessons learnt in national reports on MIPAA/RIS implementation



Highlights 2020: Policy seminar on ageing

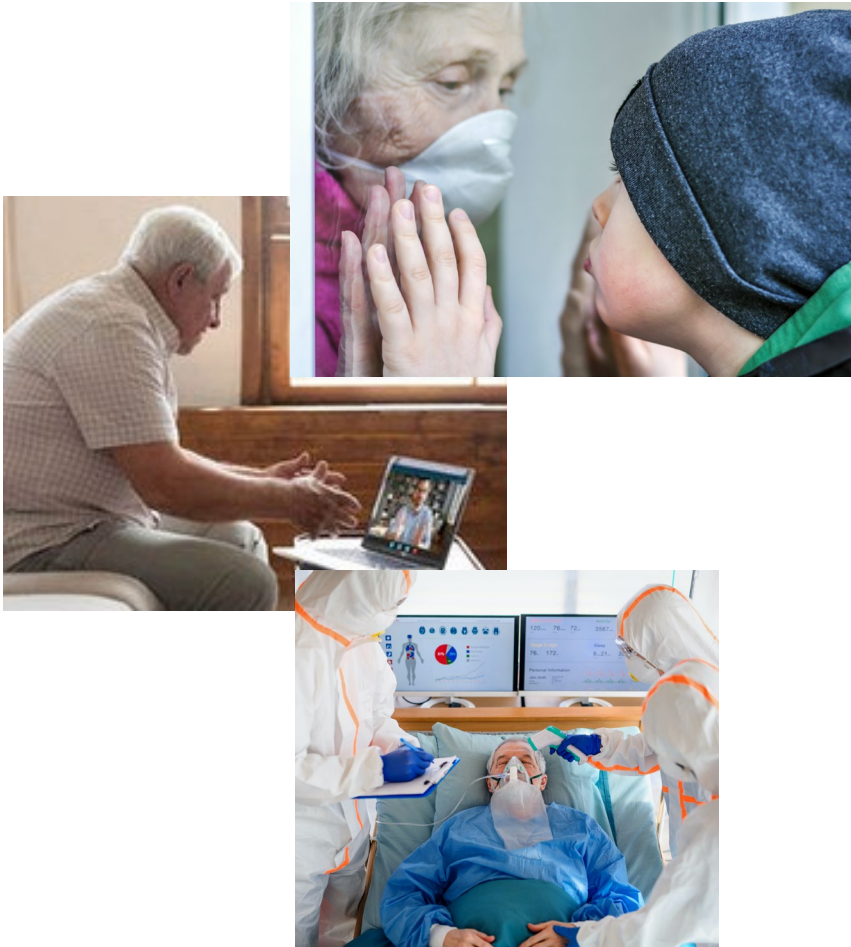
Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

Lessons thus far: experience exchange and peer learning

Presentations from Austria, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, and Serbia

Focus on:

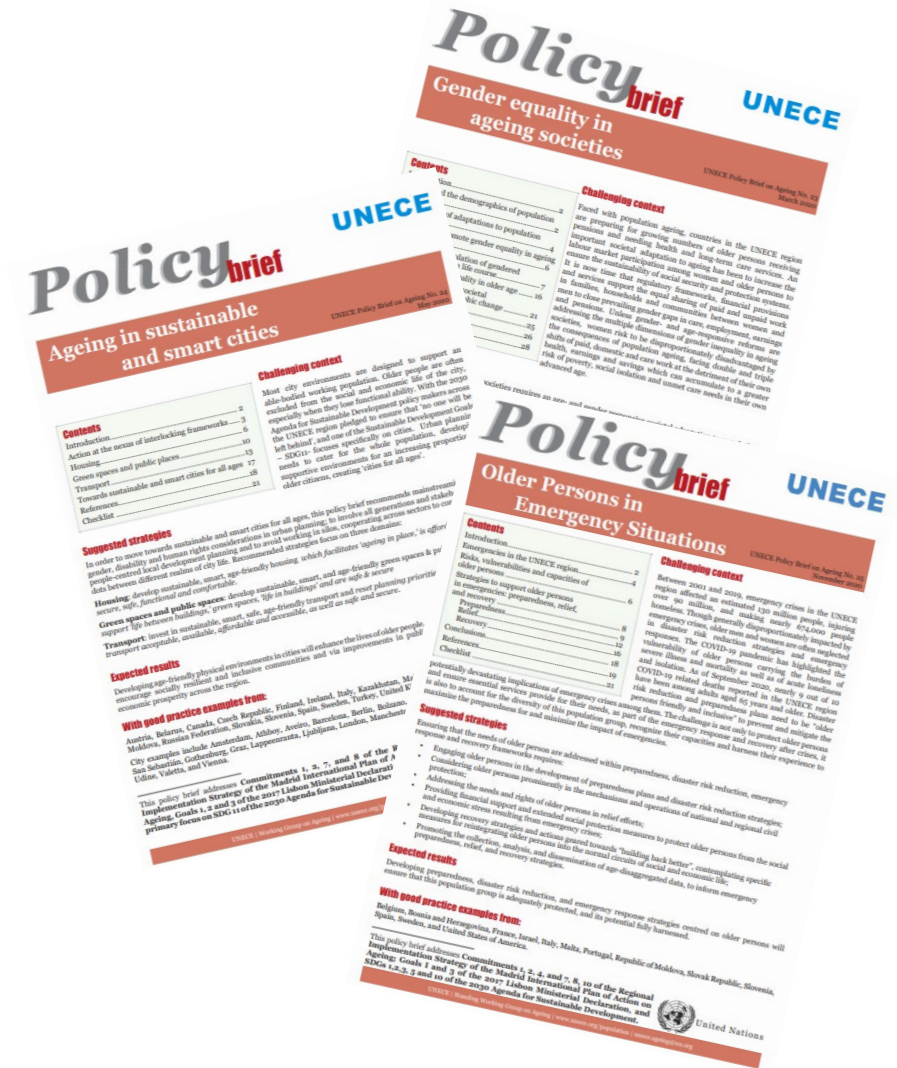
- access to essential goods and health and long-term care services, sensitivity to specific needs and preferences, resurging ageism
- innovative solutions and practices championed by communities, businesses, civil society organizations and older persons themselves



Highlights 2020: Policy briefs on ageing

Three new issues:

- **Gender Equality in Ageing Societies**
marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (No. 23, March 2020)
- **Ageing in Sustainable and Smart Cities**
input to the nexus on sustainable and smart cities for all ages (No. 24, May 2020)
- **Older Persons in Emergency Situations**
as a background paper for the 2020 Policy Seminar (No. 25, October 2020)



Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing

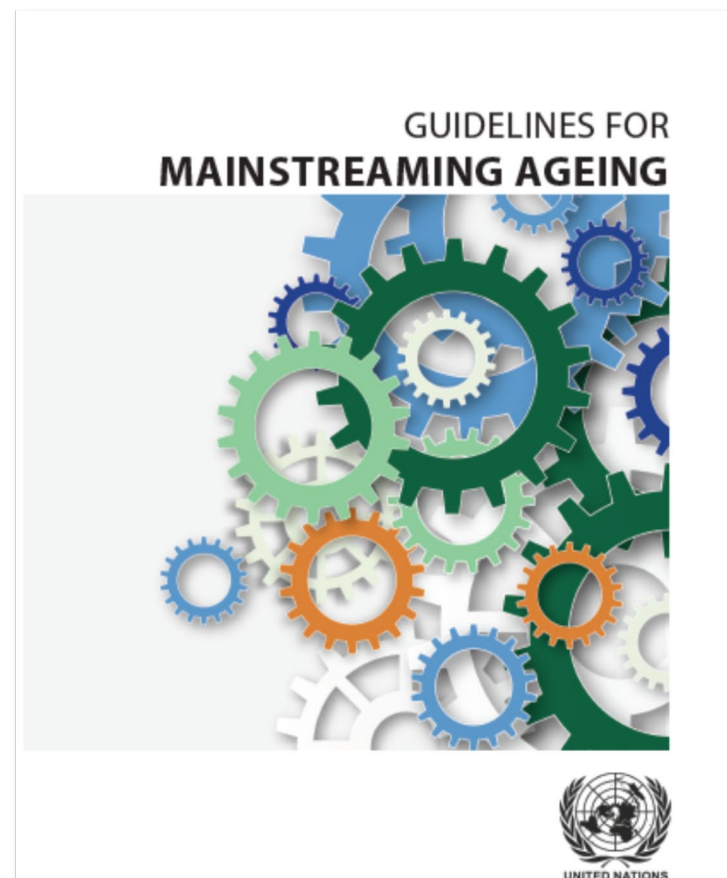


2019-2020: Task Force & secretariat

- Stocktaking: 23 country notes received
- Consultation: 21 reviews
10 member States & 11 NGOs and experts
- Revised draft: approved by SWGA at its 13th meeting on 20 Nov. 2020

2021: operationalizing the Guidelines

- Launch events:
OEWG-A /New York (29 March -1April) and
Social Summit in Porto (May) under Portuguese EU Presidency
- Development of a tool kit and first capacity-building workshop



Major planned activities in 2021 & beyond

Policy seminars on ageing

- November 2021: “Ageing in the digital era”

Policy briefs on ageing

- Policy Brief 26: “Ageing in the digital era” (Spring 2021)
- Policy Brief 27: “Mainstreaming Ageing” (Autumn 2021)

Monitoring and strengthening the evidence base

- Updating the AAI indicators to be used in the Synthesis Report



Capacity-building

- Road map for mainstreaming ageing in Kazakhstan, including rapid assessment of Covid-19 impact on LTC provision (Autumn 2021)
- Capacity development workshops to support preparation of national reports on MIPAA/RIS (April-July 2021)
- UNFPA, WHO, UNECE, OHCHR and HelpAge International Joint programme on Ageing: **Building forward better in light of COVID-19**

4th review and appraisal of the MIPAA/RIS

2020:

- The UNECE guidelines for national reports (September 2020)
- SWGA started acting as Preparatory Committee (November 2020)
- **Italy proposed to host 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference in Rome**

From Lisbon in 2017 to Rome in 2022

2021 milestones:

- **March - July:** supporting national review processes
- **September:** member States submit national review reports
- **October:** First briefing to member States on format and provisional programme of the 2022 Ministerial Conference
- **November:** 14th SWGA meeting - outline for the Synthesis Report; draft ministerial declaration under in-depth discussion
- **December:** Launch of the first round of formal consultation on a draft ministerial declaration



Supporting the SWGA work programme

SWGA secretariat - regular budget resources 2021

- P5 - Chief of unit & G6 Programme assistant
- **As of 4 January 2021, no P2 - Associate population affairs officer - due to recruitment freeze**

Technical cooperation - 'Ageing – phase III' fund

- In Jan. 2020, contributions from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland amounted to USD 271,000
- In the course of 2020/early 2021, additional contributions received from Estonia (USD 3,300), Germany (USD 179,200) and Switzerland (USD 20,000)

UNECE Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation

- In Sept. 2020, USD 10,000 for a Rapid assessment of Covid-19 impact on LTC pilot study
- In 2021, allotment of USD 17,000

Thanks to all member States, NGOs and partner organizations for active involvement in SWGA, and their in-kind & financial support



Issues for EXCOM decisions

EXCOM is invited to:

- Approve the programme of work of the Population component of the subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population for 2021 as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2020/5.
- Welcome efforts of the Standing Working Group on Ageing to align its activities with the regional/ national follow-up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other population-related international frameworks, including the United Nations Decade of the Healthy Ageing, 2021–2030.