Voluntary National Survey on the Implementation of the
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in Asia and the Pacific
(to inform the Asia-Pacific Fifth Review and Appraisal of the
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing)

COMPANION DOCUMENT

The following document presents some references to key terms mentioned in the voluntary national survey. The key terms are listed in alphabetical order.

Term	Definition	Reference
Accessibility	The design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, including older persons, without need for adaptation.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Action plan	A detailed operational document that translates policy or strategy into specific, time-bound activities with assigned responsibilities, resources and monitoring indicators. Action plans typically cover certain years and include implementation schedules, budget allocations and performance metrics. To be effective and achieve its objectives, it must be monitored and updated.	ESCAP, 2023. A practical guide: policy documents on older persons in Asia and the Pacific.
Active Ageing	The process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance quality of life as people age.	WHO, 2002. Active Ageing: a policy framework.
Age-friendly environments	Age-friendly environments are physical and social environments that are inclusive, accessible, equitable, safe and supportive for people of all ages, especially older persons.	WHO, 2007. Global age-friendly cities: a guide.
Ageing in place	The ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.	adapted from WHO, 2015. World Report on Ageing and Health.
Ageism	Ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) directed towards others or oneself based on age. Combating ageism is one of the four action areas prioritized by the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.	WHO, 2021. Global report on ageism.
Assistive technology	Any item, piece of equipment, software, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of older persons.	WHO, 2018. Assistive Technology: Key Facts.

Term	Definition	Reference
Bottom-up participatory approach	The bottom-up participatory approach brings together primary (older persons) and secondary (government ministries and departments, civil society, the private sector, national academic and research institutions, and the media) stakeholders in order to implement and review and appraise the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the national level. The approach generates knowledge for policymakers, supports action and promotes public awareness. The approach should ideally represent an ongoing process of engagement and participation and represent a means of bringing older persons' voices into the process of development, implementation, review and appraisal of MIPAA and related policies and programmes on ageing.	DESA, 2006. Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Bottom-up participatory approach.
Coordinating body/committee /agency or national multi-stakeholder forum on population ageing and/or older persons?	Defined as any body, committee, agency or national multi-stakeholder forum that brings together primary and secondary stakeholders on ageing active at the national and/or subnational levels to coordinate its work.	DESA, 2006. Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Bottom-up participatory approach
Decade of Healthy Ageing	The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals, that brings together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media and the private sector to improve the lives of older persons, their families, and the communities in which they live. The decade will address four areas of action: age-friendly environments; combatting ageism; integrated care; and long-term care. In 2020, by adopting General Assembly resolution 75/131, United Nations Member States decided to proclaim 2021–2030 the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing and invited Governments and other relevant stakeholders to actively support its implementation. WHO has been mandated to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, in collaboration with the Department of Social and Economic Affairs of the Secretariat, the regional commissions, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UN Women and the World Bank, within their respective mandates.	For more information on the Decade of Healthy Ageing, see: https://www.who.int/initiatives/decade-of-healthy-ageing

Term	Definition	Reference
Digital inclusion	Equitable, meaningful and safe access to digital technologies, services, and related opportunities should be available to everyone, everywhere. It is important to empower older persons to access, understand and utilize these digital tools and services so they can fully participate in society.	For more information: https://social.desa.un.org/issues/poverty-eradication/digital-inclusion
Disaggregated data	Data broken down by specific characteristics such as age, sex, disability status, income level, geographic location and other relevant factors.	UN Statistical Commission, 2018. Report of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data.
Elder abuse	A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.	WHO, 2022. Elder abuse: Key facts.
Formal caregivers	Trained and paid professionals who provide care services in institutional or home settings.	WHO, 2017. Integrated care for older people: Guidelines on community-level interventions to manage declines in intrinsic capacity.
Geriatrics and gerontology	Geriatrics: Medical speciality focused on health care of older persons, including diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and disability in older age. Gerontology: Multidisciplinary study of ageing processes, including biological, psychological, social and cultural aspects of ageing.	WHO, 2017. Integrated care for older people: Guidelines on community-level interventions to manage declines in intrinsic capacity.
Good practice	An intervention, method, or approach that has been proven effective through evidence, delivers sustainable results, and has potential for replication or scaling up.	For more information: https://www.population-trends-asiapacific.org/repositories/good-practices
Income security	The condition where individuals have stable and sufficient income to meet basic needs and maintain an adequate standard of living. For older persons, this includes pensions, savings, employment income, family support and social transfers that together ensure economic well-being.	adapted from ILO, 2021. World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads - in pursuit of a better future.
Informal caregivers	Family members, friends, neighbours, or volunteers who provide unpaid care and support to older persons. They typically lack formal training and provide care based on personal relationships.	WHO, 2017. Integrated care for older people: Guidelines on community-level interventions to manage declines in intrinsic capacity.

Term	Definition	Reference
Intergenerational relations	Intergenerational relations refer to the interactions, exchanges, support and relationships between people of different generations, particularly between older and younger persons. These relations are crucial for promoting solidarity, reducing ageism, ensuring the transfer of knowledge and fostering mutual care and understanding within societies.	For more information: Pact for the Future and its annex on the Declaration on Future Generations. https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future See also ESCAP/CSD(8)/4*
International migration	International migration is defined as a change in the country of residence, while international temporary mobility includes all international border crossings (events) other than those related to changes in country of residence. For more information, see the references listed on the side. Please note, however, that for the purpose of this survey, the definition of a "migrant" can be interpreted more broadly, and respondents are encouraged to provide such a definition when answering the respective questions.	UN DESA, 2025. Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility UN DESA, 1998. Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 UN DESA, 2017. Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses
Life-course approach to population ageing	A life-course approach to population ageing emphasizes the sequential events and developmental steps throughout a person's life and is based on scientific evidence. This approach is in line with the rights-based comprehensive approach of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of a society of all ages.	UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office, 2020. Addressing population ageing in Asia and the Pacific Region – A lifecycle approach.
Long-term care	Long-term care (LTC) refers to a range of personal, social and medical services and supports needed by people with a significant ongoing loss of intrinsic capacity, or at risk of, due to ageing or health conditions, particularly when they are unable to perform basic activities of daily living (such as bathing, dressing, eating, or moving around) on their own. LTC includes support provided in various settings–at home, in the community, or in institutions–and encompasses both formal care (delivered by trained professionals) and informal care (provided by family or friends). The aim of LTC is to ensure that people can maintain a level of functional ability consistent with their basic rights, dignity, autonomy and quality of life to the greatest extent possible.	For more information: https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/long-term-care#:~:text=Long%2Dterm%20care%20includes%20a,basic%20rights%20and%20human%20dignity.

Term	Definition	Reference
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)	The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the Political Declaration were adopted by United Nations Member States at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in April 2002. To this day, MIPAA represents the global guiding document which addresses the key challenge of building a society for all ages. The agenda focuses on three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. Along the three priority directions, MIPAA identifies 18 priority issues with 35 specific objectives that are to be implemented in 239 specific recommendations for action. The Commission for Social Development is responsible for follow-up and appraisal of national implementation of MIPAA at the global level and the regional commissions are mandated to review and appraise the implementation of MIPAA at the regional levels.	For the MIPAA, see United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. See also General Assembly resolution 79/147 and ECOSOC resolution 2025/L.6. See also the Guide to National Implementation of the MIPAA See also Guidelines for review and appraisal of the MIPAA Bottom-up participatory approach
National Transfer Accounts	National Transfer Accounts (NTAs) provide an accounting of economic flows to and from residents of a country classified by their age, typically for a national population in a given calendar year. The accounts are comprehensive in that all economic flows that arise as a consequence of the production of goods and services during the year are incorporated. NTAs provide systematic, comprehensive and coherent methods for the age disaggregation of the major components of national accounts, as well as estimates of private transfers within households. As the world is undergoing profound changes in its age distribution and as countries are moving through the demographic transition from high to low fertility and mortality, the analysis of NTAs can be used to inform policymaking. In Asia and the Pacific, several countries are represented in the NTA network. For more information, see: https://asia.ntaccounts.org/web/nta/show/%24admin/MembersNational Time Transfer Accounts (NTTAs) add the gender dimension to the age perspective of the NTA framework and study household economic flows of unpaid care work by age.	DESA, 2013. National Transfer Accounts Manual: Measuring and Analysing the Generational Economy. United Nations publication Sales number: E.13.XIII.6 See also: Asia-Pacific National Transfer Account at https://asia.ntaccounts.org/web/nta/show/ DESA 2025. National Time Transfer Accounts. United Nations Sales number: Sales No.: E.25.XIII.1.
Palliative care	An approach that improves quality of life of patients and families facing life-threatening illness through prevention and relief of suffering. For older persons, this includes pain management, psychosocial support, spiritual care and support for family caregivers, not limited to end-of-life care.	WHO, 2020. Palliative care: Key facts.

Term	Definition	Reference
Physical activity	WHO defines physical activity as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. Physical activity refers to all movement including during leisure time, for transport to get to and from places, or as part of a person's work. Both moderate- and vigorous-intensity physical activity improves health.	For more information, see https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-activity
Policy	A formal statement of intent adopted by the government that establishes principles, goals and guidelines for addressing ageing issues. Policies provide the framework for legislation, resource allocation and programme development. They are typically long-term and require cabinet or parliamentary approval. While laws are often framed in terms of justice, a policy is meant to achieve certain goals.	ESCAP, 2023. A practical guide: policy documents on older persons in Asia and the Pacific.
Social pension	Also known as "non-contributory pension": Regular state-provided (tax-financed) cash transfers to older persons, where eligibility is not dependent on past contributions or earnings.	HelpAge International, 2006. Why Social Pensions are needed now HelpAge International, 2016. HelpAge International Glossary
Social protection floor	Social protection floors are nationally-defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. These guarantees should ensure, at a minimum, that over the life cycle, all those in need have access to essential health care and basic income security. As per ILO guidance, national social protection floors should comprise at least the following four social security guarantees, as defined at the national level: (a) access to essential health care, including maternity care; (b) basic income security for children, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services; (c) basic income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; (d) basic income security for older persons. Such guarantees should be provided to all residents and all children, as defined in national laws and regulations, and subject to existing international obligations. SDG 1 on ending poverty includes target 1.3 which makes reference to social protection floors.	ILO, 2012. Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)
Strategy	A comprehensive plan that outlines how policy objectives will be achieved. Strategies identify priority areas, approaches and broad interventions needed to implement policy. They typically include situational	ESCAP, 2023. A practical guide: policy documents on older persons in Asia and the Pacific.

Term	Definition	Reference
	analysis, strategic objectives, and implementation framework but are less detailed than action plans. The strategy may or may not co-exist with a policy and/or action plan	
The right to education	The right to education is enshrined in Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and several other international and regional instruments. Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights.	For more information: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/SREducation/Pages/InternationalStandards.aspx https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/SREducation/Pages/EducationAndHR.aspx
The right to adequate housing	The right to adequate housing is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living enshrined in Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity, with the following elements: (a) legal security of tenure; (b) availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; (c) affordability; (d) habitability; (e) accessibility; (f) location; and (g) cultural adequacy.	For more information: https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-housing/human-right-adequate-housing
Titchfield City Group	The Titchfield Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data has been concerned with identifying gaps and establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics and data on the major dimensions related to ageing and age-disaggregated data across the life course. It has also been concerned with developing standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data, and encourages countries to do so, by playing a leading role in the development and communication of new standards and methodologies. In achieving these objectives, the Titchfield Group has collaborated with United Nations bodies and other organizations concerned with specific aspects of ageing and age statistics. United Nations Member States created the Titchfield Group through Statistical Commission resolution 49/118 in 2018. The summary report of the group was released in October 2024.	For more information: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/Report-on-the-49th-session-E.pdf https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/citygroups/Titchfield.cshtml https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/citygroups/2487%20Improving%20the%20Visibility%20of%20Older%20Persons%20in%20Global%20Statistics%20v1-0.pdf
Universal Design	Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.	For more information: http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/

Term	Definition	Reference
Universal Health Coverage	Ensuring that all people have access to needed health services (including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective, while ensuring that use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship.	For more information: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc)

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