



March 2017  
**Information Notice**

**UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 2017**  
Lisbon, from the 20th to 22nd of September

## **Preparations for the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing**

### **1. Background**

In 1982, the first World Assembly on Ageing took place in Vienna (Austria). Twenty years later, in April 2002, the Second World Assembly adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), a global normative frame for responding to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing. The same year in September, the UNECE member States took a step further and at the Berlin Conference endorsed the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the MIPAA that included a set of measures and actions grouped under ten commitments.

At the onset of the MIPAA, it was agreed to carry out a review and appraisal of its implementation every five years at both regional and global levels. In 2007, the UNECE Ministerial Conference in León (Spain) concluded the review and appraisal of the first five-year cycle of the MIPAA/RIS and in its Ministerial Declaration re-endorsed the ten commitments of the RIS. Following the 2007 Ministerial Conference, the UNECE Working Group on Ageing (WGA) was established in 2008. In 2012, the UNECE Ministerial Conference in Vienna completed the second review and appraisal exercise at the regional level. The Vienna Ministerial Declaration with its four goals endorsed the concept of active ageing. The third review and appraisal exercise commenced in 2016 with countries preparing their national reports and will be completed with the UNECE Ministerial Conference in September 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal.

### **2. General format of the Conference**

The UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from the 21st to 22nd of September 2017. The title for this 2017 Ministerial Conference is “A sustainable society for all ages: realizing the potential of living longer”. On the 20th of September, the day preceding the Conference, a Civil Society Forum and a Research Forum will take place. The Conference will host a poster exhibition on good practice examples and some side events.

[mipaalisbon2017.pt](http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial_conference_2017.html/)

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The first day of the Conference will be dedicated to the presentation of the synthesis report on the MIPAA/RIS implementation since 2012 and three panel discussions: (1) Recognizing the potential of older persons, (2) Encouraging longer working life and ability to work, and (3) Ensuring ageing with dignity. On the second day, Ministers of the UNECE member States will gather for the high-level segment round-table discussions, at the end of which a Ministerial Declaration will be adopted.

More information on the Conference and all related documents will be available in due time at: [www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial\\_conference\\_2017.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial_conference_2017.html) and <http://www.mipaalisbon2017.pt>.

### **3. Participants / Official delegations**

Around 400 participants are expected to attend the Conference. UNECE member States are invited to send delegations of up to four persons, including the head of delegation. Member States are encouraged to include a civil society representative in their official delegation. Representatives from different United Nations specialized and related agencies and delegates from other inter-governmental organizations, experts and representatives of NGOs will take part as observers in the Conference.

### **4. Registration**

In order to facilitate arrangements by the host Government, member States are kindly requested to communicate to the UNECE secretariat the composition of their delegations by the 3rd of July 2017 and complete the electronic registration forms by the 15th of August 2017.

An electronic registration form will be available as of the 15th of March at: [www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial\\_conference\\_2017.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial_conference_2017.html).

### **5. Languages and interpretation services**

English, French, Portuguese and Russian are the languages of the Conference. Statements made in any of those languages will be interpreted into the other three languages.

### **6. Conference venue**

The Ministerial Conference will take place at the Lisbon Congress Center which is located close to the river Tagus and the historical and cultural heritage of Belém (for more details about facilities see: <http://lisbonvenues.pt/en/lisbon-congress-center/>).



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## 7. Calendar of preparatory events

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7-8 May 2015         | Seventh meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing/Preparatory Committee, Gdańsk (Poland)                                                                   |
| 1 June 2015          | Country report guidelines provided to the national focal points on ageing by the UNECE secretariat                                                                    |
| 19-20 November 2015  | Eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing/Preparatory Committee, Geneva: agreement on the theme of the Ministerial Conference                                     |
| 19-20 May 2016       | Eighth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing/Preparatory Committee, Oslo (Norway): Declaration drafting group and Ministerial Conference concept group |
| July 2016            | Portugal informs about the decision to host the Ministerial Conference                                                                                                |
| 31 Octobre 2016      | Deadline for delivering national reports to the UNECE secretariat                                                                                                     |
| 21-22 November 2016  | Ninth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing/Preparatory Committee, Geneva                                                                                            |
| 19-20 January 2017   | Preparatory meeting of the organizers of the Conference                                                                                                               |
| January/April 2017   | Drafting of the regional synthesis report on implementation of MIPAA/RIS since 2012                                                                                   |
| January/April 2017   | Drafting process of the Ministerial Declaration                                                                                                                       |
| 3-4 April 2017       | Ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing/Preparatory Committee, Vienna/Austria                                                                      |
| May/August 2017      | Formal consultation process on the Ministerial Declaration                                                                                                            |
| July 2017            | Distribution of the background paper(s) in English, French, Portuguese and Russian                                                                                    |
| 20 September 2017    | Civil Society and Research forums, Lisbon                                                                                                                             |
| 21-22 September 2017 | Ministerial Conference, Lisbon                                                                                                                                        |



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## 8. Forthcoming preparatory events

Ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing,  
3-4 April 2017, Vienna/Austria

The Bureau will meet on the 3rd and 4th of April in Vienna for the negotiation and finalization of the draft text of Ministerial Declaration to be sent for formal consultations. The Bureau also will review and adjust as necessary the Conference agenda. The preliminary text of the Ministerial Declaration will be sent to the member States for electronic consultation during May - August 2017. Based on the results of the consultation, the Declaration Drafting Group together with the secretariat will prepare an adapted draft by the 1st of September, to be endorsed at the Conference on 20-21 September. The work plan for Declaration drafting can be consulted at [www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial\\_conference\\_2017.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial_conference_2017.html)

## 9. Contact details of the Conference organizers

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## 10. Contact details of the organizers of the NGOs and Research Fora

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