

## MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN ON AGEING

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 the NGO Committee on Ageing in collaboration with the International Federation on Ageing and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs organized a virtual event on “20 Years of MIPAA and UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy”

Presented in 1982 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly the same year “The Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing” was the first international instrument and the basis for the formulation of policies and programmes on ageing.

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna, the UN General Assembly decided to convene the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 and accepted the offer of the Government of Spain to host the Assembly.

The **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)** and the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly marked a turning point in how the world addresses the key challenge of “building a society for all ages”.

MIPAA provides all the ingredients for robust programmes and activities to improve the lives of older persons. Regrettably, it is as relevant today as it was in 2002. After almost 20 years we are still urging for action on the same issues for advancing its implementation as presented in the modalities document for the fourth review and appraisal e.g. health-policies and long-term care, future of work, older women, social protection systems, life-long learning, access to information and communications technology.

Publications on Ageing by the **UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** show that their members have made strides in improving the lives of older persons. However, there are still gender gaps in employment, care, earnings and pensions, illustrating the accumulation of disadvantages for women over the life-course.

A Stakeholder Group on Ageing was established during the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals .The Group insisted on having inclusion of references such as “all ages”, “for all”, “life-long” scattered throughout the text.

The SDGs must include older persons and link the goals and targets with implementation of MIPAA.

Older persons need an internationally agreed upon convention to change the way they are looked at. The NGO Committees on Ageing in Geneva, New York and Vienna are monitoring and participating in intergovernmental deliberations and actions, including providing necessary language in key documents on a global level.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us and we will have to continue our fight.

Ceja Gregor-Hu  
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