

**56ª SESSÃO DA COMISSÃO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO SOCIAL
Nova Iorque, 29 a 7 de fevereiro 2018**

**Intervenção
Sr. Ministro do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social**

High level panel discussion on *The third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing – 31 de janeiro 2017*

Mr President

Dear Colleagues

Dear panellists

Ladies and gentleman

First of all I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for having invited me to participate in the high-level panel discussion on the outcomes of the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the so called MIPAA, and its Regional Implementation Strategy.

I also take this opportunity to welcome the report of the Secretary-General on this issue.

In September 2017, Portugal, together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, organized the 4th Ministerial Conference on Ageing for Europe, under the *theme A sustainable society for all ages: realizing the potential of living longer*, where Ministers adopted the *Lisbon Declaration*.

A significant number of participants from Member States, European and International organisations, researchers and representatives of the civil society attended the Conference.

Participants exchanged views on progress made, identified remaining gaps and challenges and set priorities for MIPAA's implementation for the next five-year cycle (2017-2022).

Since 2012 active ageing has been advanced as the central concept and operational approach of national and regional policies on ageing. The Lisbon Declaration proceeds on this way forward, enriched by the experiences of the last five years with the following three main goals:

1. First, recognizing the potential of older persons,
2. Second, encouraging longer working lives and ability to work, and
3. Third, ensuring ageing with dignity.

With the Lisbon Declaration, UN-ECE Region acknowledge the following significant progress during the last five years:

- Increasing attention of policy makers, social partners, the media and the general public regarding issues of population and individual ageing, including the observance of older persons dignity and access to fundamental human rights;
- The development or revision of comprehensive national strategies on ageing to implement the concept of active ageing;
- Measures to adapt national social protection systems to the consequences of demographic changes;
- Growing involvement of civil society, in particular organizations of older persons, in the development of policies;
- Wider use of innovative approaches in providing services related to education, employment, culture and leisure, rehabilitation, health and social care, including technological and organizational innovations.

It is noted that the pace of progress differs across the region. Also, the implementation of the Plan from 2012 to 2017 has yet taken place in a context of economic insecurity with several countries facing pressures to cut on social spending.

Although ECE countries are already recovering, the socio-demographic framework faces strong challenges. In fact, population is ageing rapidly with low fertility rates in a context of increasing globalization and technological revolution.

Economy is changing every day and new risks are emerging. There is a need for new responses. They must take into account a new way to approach ageing. Indeed it is vital to change our mind-set regarding ageing in order to dissipate stereotypes and attitudes, both in society and in companies and organizations.

Ageing population cannot be seen as a burden. On the contrary, we must see its potential for the economy and for a sustainable and inclusive society. This is still far from being fully taken into account.

With the Lisbon Declaration, the region took the opportunity to emphasize that policies on ageing and its implementation are to be seen as a shared responsibility of all major players. It also recognizes the need for inter and intraregional dialogue and for effective collaboration between all the stakeholders.

Even with different demographic situations the UN-ECE countries agreed that ageing is a common challenge not only for the region but for all of us.

Ministers committed to realize the potential of living longer and to work towards achieving the following main priorities by 2022:

1. Empower individuals to realize their potential for physical, mental and social well-being throughout their lives and to participate and contribute to society;

2. Realize the potential of longevity promoting a positive image of ageing and enabling older persons to participate in the labour market, civil society and community life, for longer time;
3. Eradicate competitive disadvantage in the labour market with employment services tailored to older jobseekers, providing incentives for employers to hire older persons and promoting lifelong learning;
4. Make, thus, early retirement less attractive and encourage older persons to postpone retirement;
5. Combat all forms of discrimination, and providing the services and financial security needed to ensure a good quality of life and dignity in older age;
6. Rise dignity and recognize the contributions of older persons to family and society and therefore to intergenerational equity and reciprocity, as necessary for strengthening social cohesion;
7. Better integrate and coordinate quality health and social care systems, enabling older persons to maintain their autonomy;
8. Develop age-friendly community programmes and better support informal and family carers;
9. Address challenges such as dementia, social isolation and loneliness by understanding the needs and preferences of older persons;

The challenges that lie before us are huge, and we need to pioneer our work. A close follow up is needed under the regular work of a Committee.

Thus, in the Lisbon Declaration the Ministers also acknowledge the need to explore the possibility of a resource-neutral transformation of the working group on ageing to a UN-ECE standing sectoral Committee.

Madrid Plan is able to respond to these challenges. It is therefore essential to strengthen its links with governmental and supra national actions with impact on the ageing of population.

Of course all those efforts must go hand in hand with the Sustainable Development Agenda and the MIPAA commitmentsⁱ are in line with the different goals of that Agenda. More important, they count on the participation and contribution of older persons.

In the previous report, the Secretary-General noted that the post-2015 agenda could provide Member States and the United Nations system with an opportunity to anchor the issue of ageing in the global development agenda.

I have no doubt that the 2030 Agenda and MIPAA support each other. I believe the 4th cycle, which we are now launching, could increase the opportunities for inclusion of older persons in the sustainable development goals and thus ensuring that *no one is left behind*.

Thank you

1. ⁱMainstreaming Ageing; 2.Integration and participation; 3. Economic growth; 4. Social security; 5.Labour markets; 6. Lifelong learning; 7. Quality of life, independent living and health; 8. Gender equality; 9. Support to families providing care; 10. Regional co-operation.