Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, SDGs and Human Rights

NGO Committee on Human Rights
71st Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN Church Center, New York - 9 December 2019

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Presentation Outline

Content

Meet the Team

MIPAA

Agenda 2030

UN Programme on Ageing
[Join us or die … There is no escape]
inspired by Darth Vader, The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

- The focal point on ageing in the United Nations system

- Enhance awareness of the global situation of older persons

- Ensure that the integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development agendas and policies

- Engage with policymakers, civil society and other stakeholders to work towards a life of opportunity and dignity for older people

- Email: ageing@un.org | Site: social.un.org/ageing | Twitter: @UN4Ageing

Amal

Julia

Shatho

Claudia

What we do

Economic and Social Council
Central platform for fostering debate and responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

UN General Assembly
Chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations

Commission for Social Development
human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters

High-Level Political Forum
SDG follow-up and review

Third Committee
Human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters

Statistics Commission
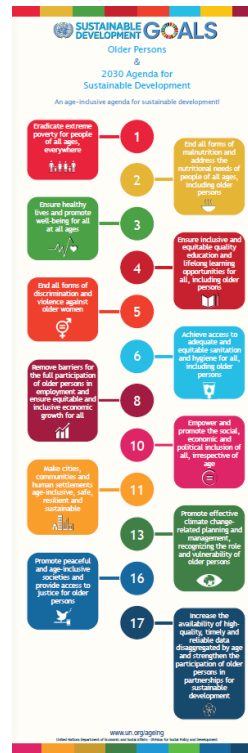Titchfield Group

Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing
Strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

informal Inter-Agency Group on Ageing

Briefing Papers

Expert Group Meetings

Technical Cooperation

Newsletters

International Day of Older Persons

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Older Persons
&
2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development

An age-inclusive agenda for sustainable development!

www.un.org/ageing

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: What's the Big Deal?

- **Bold:** Found common ground between the different starting situations in developing and developed countries. It was agreed upon by 159 governments

- **The First:** Put the issue of ageing and old age on the international agenda. Governments agreed, for the first time, to link questions of ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights

- **Inclusive:** Drafted by several major stakeholders: Governments, UN entities, academia and NGOs

- **Comprehensive Resource for Policymaking:** 239 recommendations to reach 35 objectives within 18 priority issues, consolidated in 3 priority directions: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The UN works to build a society for all ages

Second World Assembly on Ageing
Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2002
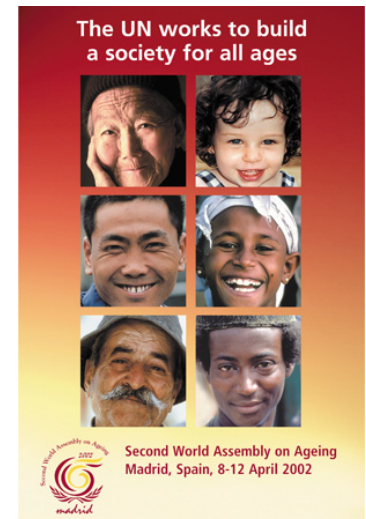
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: A Reorientation

- **The notion of dignity** in ageing was the basis from which the human rights approach would emerge in the following decades

- **Celebrated longevity.** Recognized the unprecedented demographic transformation, and challenged the all society to promote increased opportunities

- **The Life course approach.** Recognized the need for close examination from a development perspective of a broader life course, and that action is needed to transform opportunities and quality of life of people as they age, thus building the foundation for a society for all ages

- **Marked deep inequalities** in situation of older persons, and for this reason, the importance of placing ageing in development agendas

- **Highlighted expectations and preferences.** Older persons should have the opportunity to work for as long as they wish and are able to

- **Recognized contributions** of older persons to development in their role as caregivers

- **Stomp out Stereotypes.** Older persons disproportionately portrayed as a drain on the economy. Misleading and negative stereotypes.
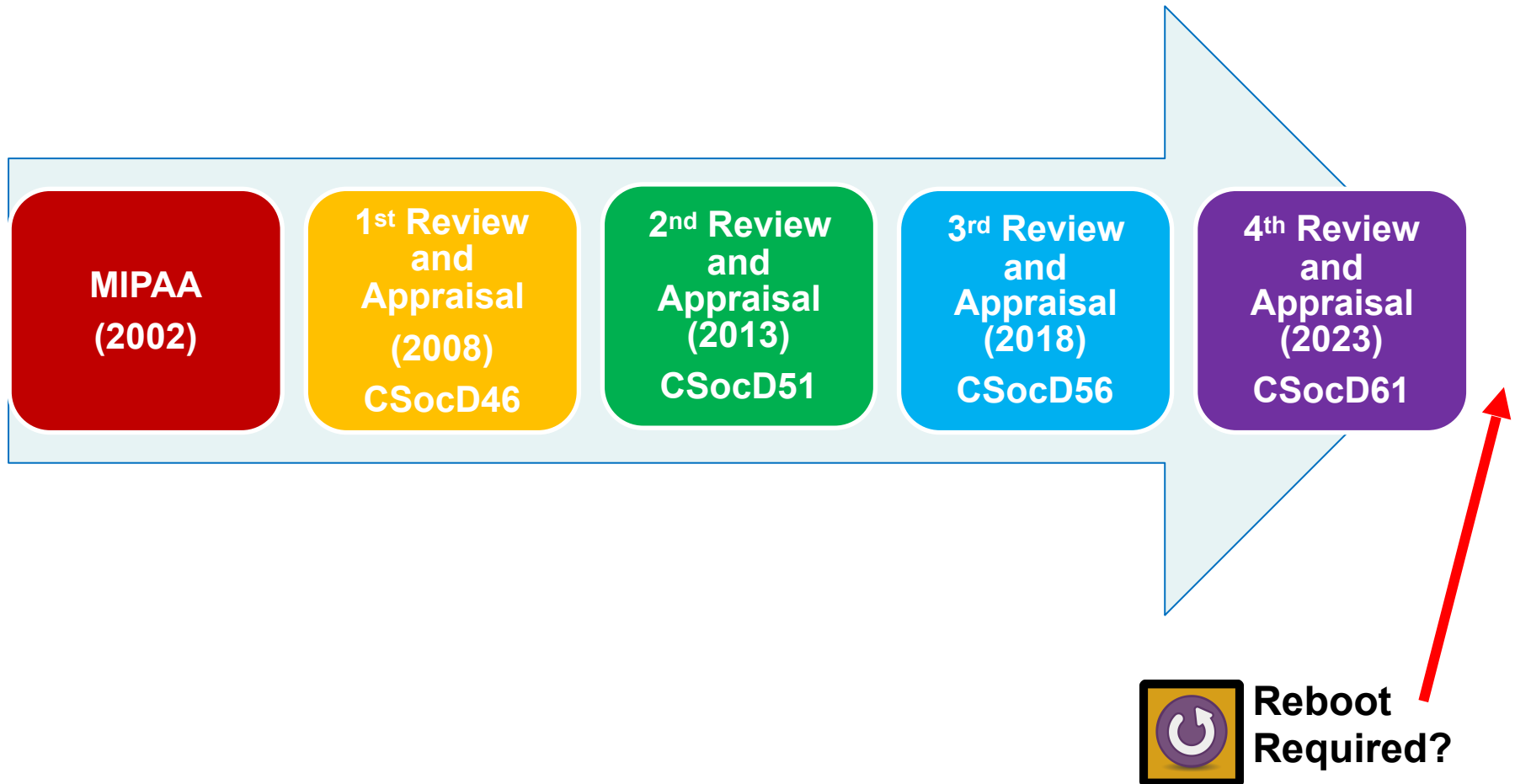
But is MIPAA still relevant?
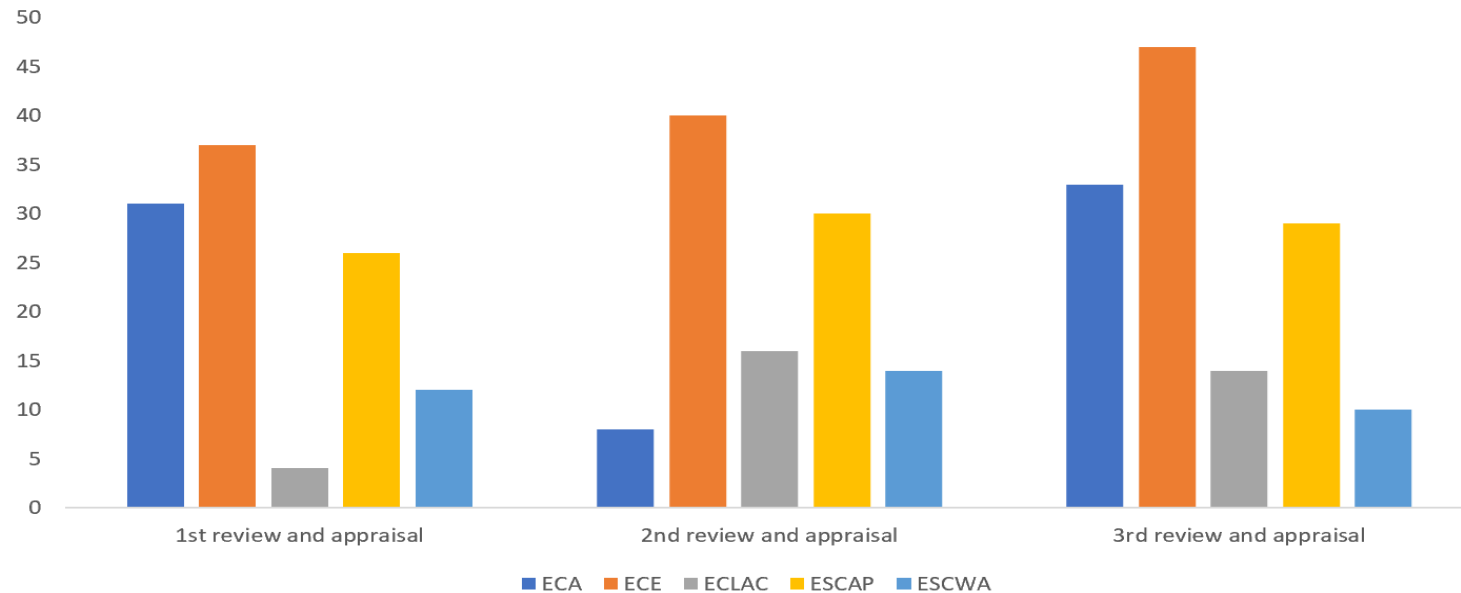
The engagement of two-thirds of the United Nations Member States in the last review and appraisal cycle attest to the fundamental role played by the Madrid Plan of Action as the international policy framework on ageing.
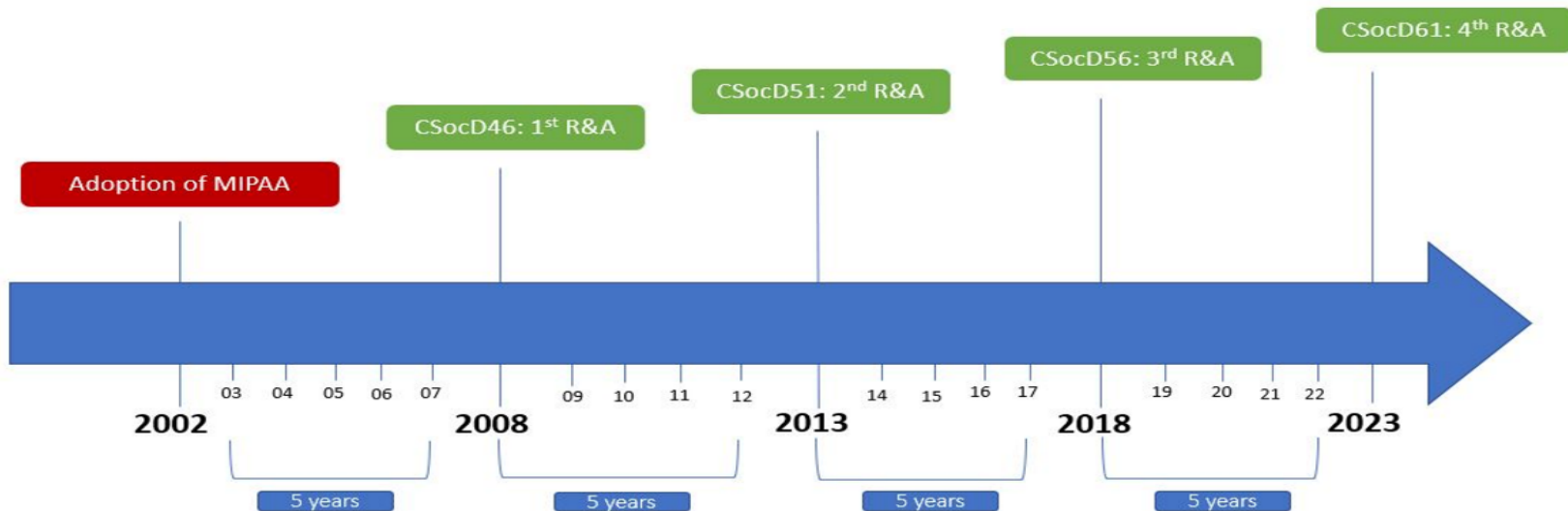
MIPAA Review and Appraisal Timeline

MIPAA (2002)	1st Review and Appraisal (2008) CSocD46	2nd Review and Appraisal (2013) CSocD51	3rd Review and Appraisal (2018) CSocD56	4th Review and Appraisal (2023) CSocD61

Reboot Required?

Your Engagement Matters

2020: The Commission, at its fifty-eighth session, decides on the modalities

2021: National reviews and appraisals take place

2022: Regional review processes take place

2023: Global review by the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session

The fourth review and appraisal presents a unique opportunity, as the Second World Assembly on Ageing approaches its 20-year milestone, to generate renewed momentum for international action to advance the ageing agenda.

But is that enough?

"the real test will be implementation."

UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan
Forward to MIPAA 2002

Keep in mind …

- MIPAA is soft law without sanctions for nonperformance

- Having an international standard on the rights of older persons would advance implementation and accountability of MIPAA

Relationship between
development,
social policy and
human rights of older persons

Development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at the improvement of the well-being of people, who are at the center of the development process. The **right to development** is an inalienable human right by virtue of which all people are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

Development and human rights inform each other and are mutually beneficial. Such interlinkages have been recognized by Member States and the international community time and again.

In MIPAA:

- "And it [MIPAA] represents the first time Governments agreed to link questions of ageing to other frameworks of social and economic development and human rights"

- "We reaffirm the commitment to spare no effort to promote democracy, strengthen the rule of law and promote gender equality, as well as to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development"

- "Issues of human rights for older persons were taken up in 1991 in the formulation of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, which provided guidance in the areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity."

- There are a number of central themes running through the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 linked to these goals, objectives and commitments, which include: (a) The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons"

- And many other references

Investing in **social policies**, with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development, will advance the implementation of MIPAA as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda.

Agenda 2030, Ageing and Human Rights

- The scope of Agenda 2030 is also far wider than that of its predecessor. Spans the full spectrum of development issues: aspects of society, economy and the environment and also institutional coordination. It seeks to realize the human rights of all people at all ages. It pledges to "leave no one behind" and "to reach the furthest behind first."

- This demands addressing the specific rights and needs of all people, including overlooked older women and men, as well as the vulnerable subgroups within that older population.

What we do:

Secretariat of GA Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons
Jointly with OHCHR

Organize Expert Group Meetings
"Human Rights of Older Persons" New York, 29-31 May 2012 (jointly with OHCHR)

Secretary-General Reports to the General Assembly
Example: A/65/157 (2010) and A/69/180 (2014)

Members of Steering Group of Titchfield City Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data

Support facilitator of GA resolution on Ageing
A/C.3/74/L.14/Rev.1

Conceptual Considerations
Key Takeaways

- **No longer an afterthought**. There is a great opportunity to once again respond to and call attention to the changed global profile of ageing and to the remarkable contribution of older persons.

- **Get a second opinion**. Revisit concepts that define and measure population ageing to: address ageist assumptions (burden on welfare systems and economies); take into account entirety of the human life course; take into account the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities

- **No one size fits all.** Some older persons are those left furthest behind, others are active contributors to development. Some older persons are receivers of care and assistance and others have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents have migrated or are deceased

- **All hands on deck.** Economic and social development / human rights / Statistics

What's the latest on Agenda 2030, human rights and older persons ?

SG report A/74/170	A/C.3/74/L.14/Rev.1
Provides an analysis of ageing-related policies and priorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as reported in the voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in the period 2016–2018 Highlights key issues and existing normative frameworks, as well as challenges and opportunities in responding to the rights and needs of older persons in emergency crises Over 2/3rds of the 111 VNRs from 2016 to 2018 feature references to the ageing population and/or older persons in some form or another. However, most references feature the ageing population in the context of: • concerns over rapid ageing trends • dependency ratios (an ageist measurement?) • concerns over sustainability of social services, pension- and healthcare systems • ageing as a factor that limits long-term, economic and income growth Call for a paradigm shift that leverages ageing as an opportunity and recognises older persons as active agents who already make substantial contributions	3 New PPs: **PP5 and PP6** Include reference to 8 fundamental international human rights instruments with regards to the rights of older persons, which constitute the cornerstones of the human rights international legal framework **PP18** Older persons in humanitarian emergencies 2 New OPs: **OP3** OPs and VNRs **OP6** OPs substantial contributions and active participation **OP3** OPs and VNRs 2 Updates in OPs: **OP36** included context of humanitarian emergencies **OP38** incorporated 3 of 5 SG report recommendations 1 New Mandate Received: **OP52** encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, by adopting at each session **inter-governmentally negotiated recommendations** to be presented for consideration at the GA

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Thank you!

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60+ COUNTS