

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

***Regional Dimensions of the Ageing Situation***



**United Nations  
New York, 2008**

## **Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (a) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which Member States of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (b) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (c) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level, and through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

### **Notes**

The designation employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The term “country” as used in the text of this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

The views expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the organization with which they are associated or those of the United Nations.

Papers have been edited and consolidated in accordance with United Nations practice and requirements.

ST/ESA/318  
ISBN 978-92-1-130263-9

Copyright © United Nations, May 2008  
All rights reserved.  
Printed at United Nations Headquarters, New York

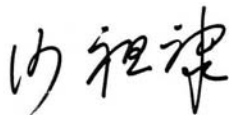
## Foreword

The year 2002 marked a watershed in a policy discourse regarding older persons world-wide. The Second World Assembly on Ageing convened in Madrid, Spain, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of ageing in the twenty-first century adopted two innovative international policy documents: the *Political Declaration* and the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. Five years later, the first review and appraisal has been conducted at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action around the world.

The review and appraisal exercise offered an opportunity to review various dimensions of ageing, analyze policy responses and try to assess the changes in overall quality of life of older persons in all five UN regions of the world. A bottom-up participatory assessment was proposed to review and appraise national policy action on ageing since the Madrid Assembly. This important participatory approach empowers older persons by allowing them to express their views on policies that relate to them and which could have possible ramifications for their well-being.

The present publication, *Regional Dimensions of the Ageing Situation*, contributes to the series of events, conferences and publications related to the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. It highlights priorities, as well as recent trends and policy developments, in the five UN regions of the world. The publication, which is a joint effort of UN staff and international experts, aims to assist national governments, the international community and the public at large to better assess the situation of older persons five years after the Second World Assembly on Ageing. It should better inform the debate on how to align priorities, policy innovations and technical cooperation to implement the objectives of the Madrid Plan of Action.

It is my sincere hope that the important issue of ageing will gain more attention in the international arena. Only thorough and rigorous analysis, such as that undertaken in this publication, can provide the basis for evidence-based policies aimed at building a society for all ages.



**Sha Zukang**  
**Under-Secretary-General**  
**for Economic and Social Affairs**

# Contents

- Foreword
- Contents
- Explanatory Notes
- I. The Madrid Plan: A Comprehensive Agenda for an Ageing World  
*by Sergei Zelenev*
- II. Regional Overview of Trends and Policies  
*by Peggy L. Kelly*
- III. Ageing Trends in Asia and the Pacific  
*by Sheung-Tak Cheng, Alfred C. M. Chan and David R. Phillips*
- IV. Ageing Policies in Africa  
*by Monica Ferreira*
- V. Ageing Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean  
*by Martha Peláez*
- VI. Ageing Trends and Policies in the European Region  
*by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi*
- VII. Ageing in Western Asia  
*by Madiha El Safty*
- VIII. The way forward  
*by Alexander Sidorenko and Robert Venne*

## Figures

- III-1. Framework of a participatory approach to review and appraisal activities
- III-2. Percentage increase in population aged 60 and above between 1990 and 2025 in selected Asian and Pacific countries or areas
- III-3. Percentages of two age groups (0–14 years and 60+ years) of the total population grouping in Asia, 1950–2050
- V-1. Factors affecting policy development and well-being of older persons
- V-2. Scheme of translating global ageing priorities into national targets
- V-3. Public spending on social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a percentage of gross domestic product
- V-4. Proportion of persons aged 60 and above, by sex, in major Latin American and Caribbean cities who report one or more potentially disabling conditions, in percentages

V-5. The essence of elder mistreatment

**Tables**

- III-1. Population aged 60 years and above in selected Asian and Pacific countries or areas and the total Asian population, in the years 2006, 2025 and 2050
- III-2. Key pension reform developments in selected countries of East and South Asia
- III-3. Labour force participation rates of older persons by age and sex in selected Asian and Pacific countries or areas, 2005
- III-4. National focal agencies and coordinating bodies on ageing, selected countries or areas
- III-5. National policies and plans of action on ageing in selected countries or areas
- IV-1. Demographic profile of the population aged 60 and above, of the five subregions of Africa, in 2005 and projected to 2025 and 2050
- IV-2. Labour force participation, sex ratios and life expectancy of the population aged 60 and above, of the five subregions of Africa, 2005
- V-1. Demographic profile of the population aged 60 and above, of the three subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2005 and projected to 2025 and 2050
- V-2. Social security in Latin America and the Caribbean
- V-3. Non-contributory pension coverage provided by Caribbean governments
- V-4. Legislation and Programs guaranteeing access to health care for older persons in Latin America and Spanish Speaking Caribbean
- VII-1. Annual population growth rate in ESCWA countries, 2000–2050, in percentages
- VII-2. Estimates of persons aged 60 years and above in the ESCWA countries, 2005 and 2050, in thousands and as percentages of the total population
- VII-3. Percentage of the oldest old population (aged 80-plus years) within the total population, and as a percentage of the population aged 60+ of the ESCWA countries, 2005 and 2050
- VII-4. Estimated total number of men aged 60+ and 80+ per 100 women aged 60+ and 80+ in the ESCWA countries, for 2005

## Explanatory Notes

The following abbreviations have been used:

AARP	formerly, American Association of Retired Persons
AGFUND	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations
CSCI	Commission for Social Care Inspection, UK
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ERSAP	Economic Reforms and Structural Adjustment Programme
EM	elder mistreatment
EC	European Commission
SAGE	Global Ageing and Adult Health
GPIF	Government Pension Insurance Fund
GDP	gross domestic product
HAI	HelpAge International
IAGG	International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
INIA	United Nations International Institute on Ageing
INTRA	Integrated Health-Care Systems Response to Rapid Populations Ageing in Developing Countries
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
ALMA	Latin American Academy of Medicine of Older Adults
SABE	Latin American and Caribbean regional survey on ageing, health and well-being
LTC	long-term care
MA:IMI	Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation
MEAA	Middle East Association on Alzheimer's
NSGRP	National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organization
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
OMC	Open Method of Coordination
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAYG	pay-as-you-go pension scheme
RSILAC	Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome

SCIE	Social Care Institute for Excellence, UK
SSA	Social Security Administration
SHARE	Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
TFR	total fertility rate
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USCB	United States Census Bureau
WHO	World Health Organization

The designation employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The term “country” as used in this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

Unless otherwise specified, the following regional groupings have been used:

### **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

#### **Member States (53)**

Afghanistan  
 Armenia  
 Australia  
 Azerbaijan  
 Bangladesh  
 Bhutan  
 Brunei Darussalam  
 Cambodia  
 China  
 Fiji  
 France  
 Georgia  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Iran, Islamic Republic of  
 Japan  
 Kazakhstan  
 Kiribati  
 Kyrgyzstan  
 Lao People's Democratic Republic  
 Malaysia  
 Maldives  
 Marshall Islands  
 Micronesia, Federated States of  
 Mongolia

Myanmar  
Nauru  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Pakistan  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Republic of Korea  
Russian Federation  
Samoa  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Tonga  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Viet Nam

Associate Members (9)

American Samoa  
Cook Islands  
French Polynesia  
Guam  
Hong Kong, China  
Macao, China  
New Caledonia  
Niue  
Northern Mariana Islands

**Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

Member States (53)

Algeria  
Angola  
Benin  
Botswana



Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo, Republic of the  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan  
Swaziland  
Togo  
Tunisia

Uganda  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Member States (44)

Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
France  
Germany  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Portugal  
Republic of Korea  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Spain  
Suriname

Trinidad and Tobago  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Uruguay  
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

Associate Members (8)

Anguilla  
Aruba  
British Virgin Islands  
Montserrat  
Netherlands Antilles  
Puerto Rico  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
United States Virgin Islands

**Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

Member States (56)

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia

Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tajikistan  
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan

### **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

#### **Member States (13)**

Bahrain  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Occupied Palestinian Territory  
Oman  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen