Conceptual Considerations for Measuring Ageing in the context of MIPAA and Agenda 2030

Expert Group Meeting: "Measuring Population Ageing: Bridging Research and Policy"
Session 2: Ageing in the global development agenda
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Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Unit, UNDESA, New York

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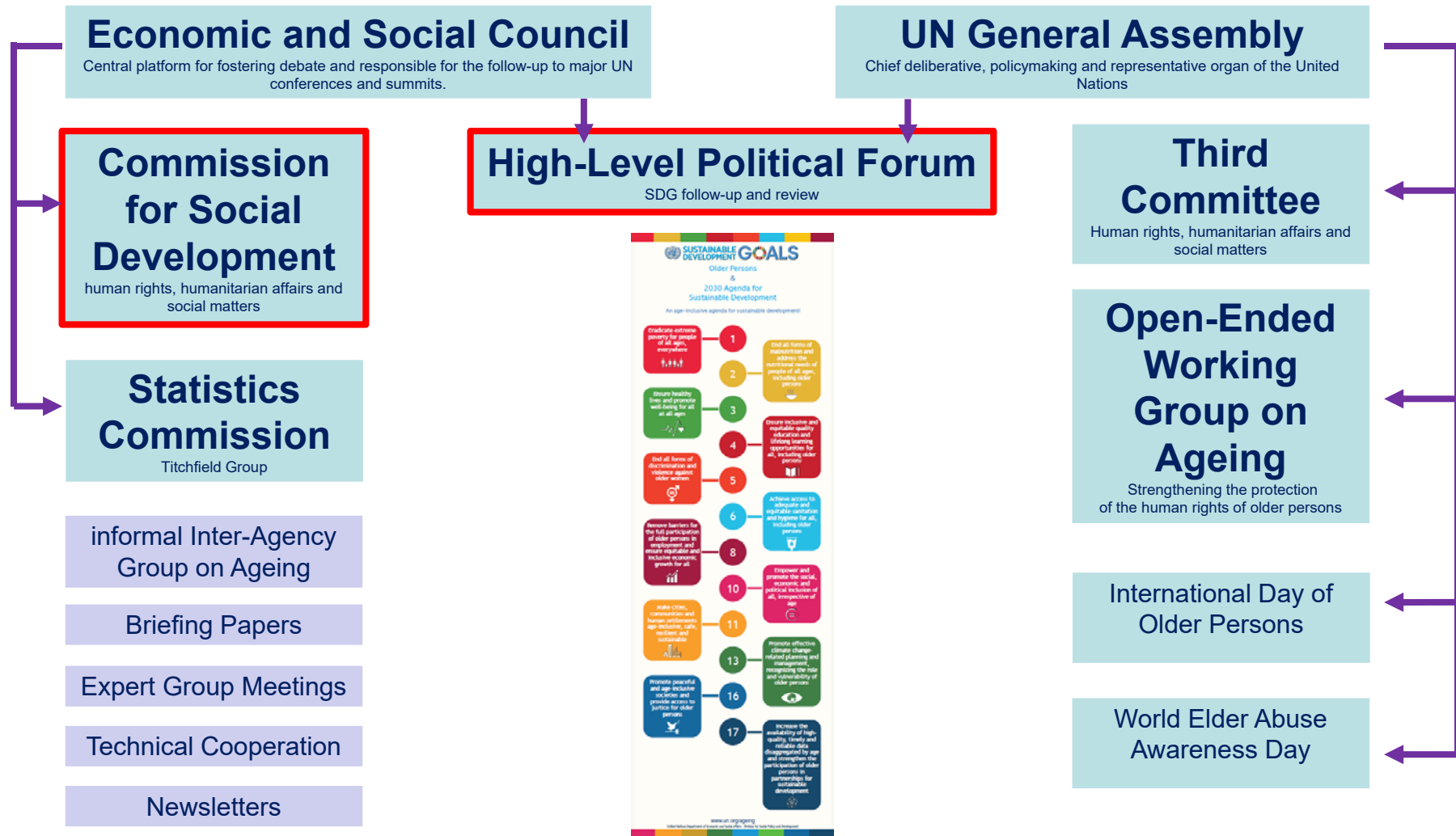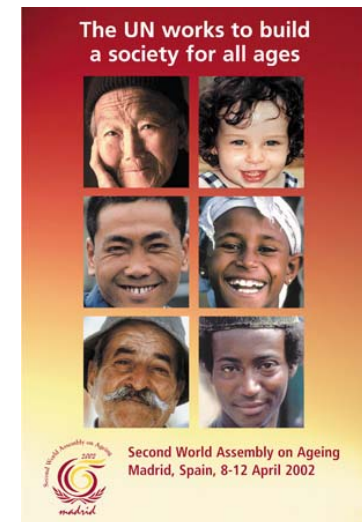
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: What's the Big Deal?

- **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 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.

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)

"But the real test will be implementation."

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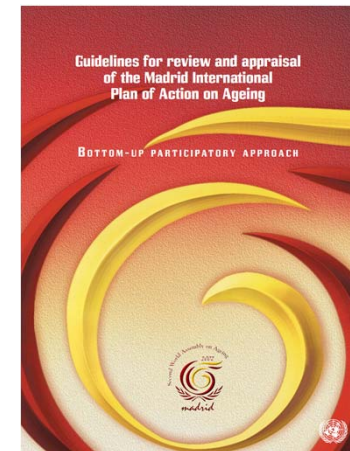Forward to MIPAA 2002

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

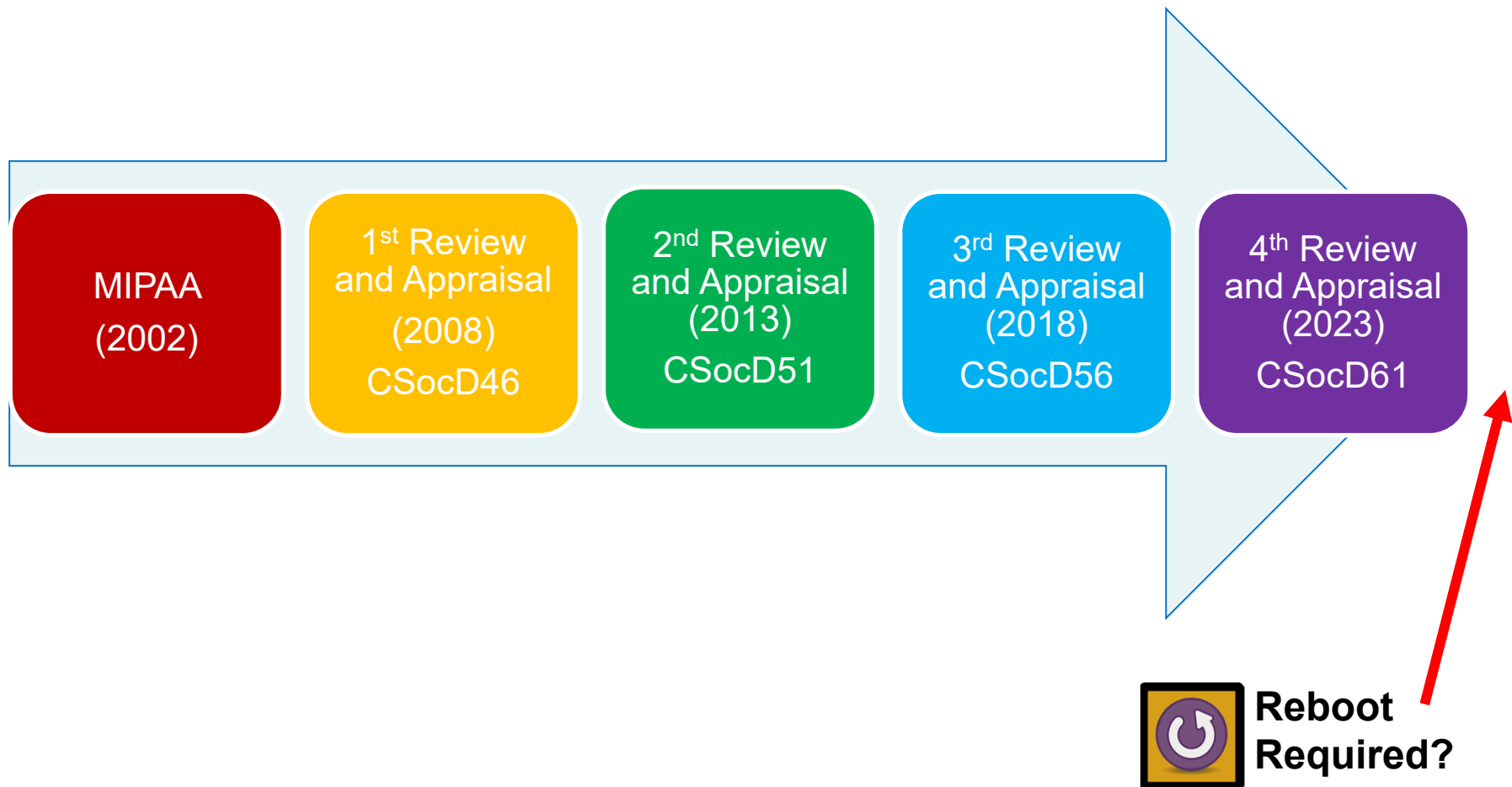# Current approaches to monitoring and assessing implementation

- **Mandate:** resolution 42/1 (2004), by consensus, modalities for a systematic review and appraisal exercise by Governments

- **Nature:** self-appraisal, self-reporting and non-binding

- **Dynamic:** implementation in conjunction with review and appraisal. A cyclical process incorporating a feedback mechanism for adjusting policy as necessary

- **Timing:** periodic - every 5 years

- **Bottom-up:** starts at the national, ideally local, level and ascends through the regional level up to the global level

- **Participatory:** involving Governments, which have the primary responsibility for implementing the Plan, in consultation with other stakeholders, including civil society organisations for older persons and the private sector. Findings should be shared with the communities to validate.

- **Empowering**: reflects the need to recognize and build-upon the capacity of older persons to contribute to society and to facilitate their participation in decision-making processes.

Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

BOTTOM-UP PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

MA:IMI   UNECE

sponsored by

bmask
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

MA:IMI Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation
www.monitoringris.org

- UNECE developed a MIPAA Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) 10 commitments

- In the absence of clearly defined criteria for appraising MIPAA progress, the MA:IMI project was undertaken

- **Key Outcomes Phase 1** (2006) set of indicators to monitor the implementation of the political goals and objectives as formulated in MIPAA and RIS and to measure progress made in achieving them. Indicators cover four main domains:

    1. Demographic factors
    2. Income and Wealth
    3. Labour market participation
    4. Social protection and financial sustainability

- **Key Outcomes Phase 2** (2009-2014) develop and collect corresponding data, on:
    1. Long-term care
    2. Gendering ageing
    3. Quality of life indicators

AAI - Active Ageing Index
www.unece.org/population/aai

- **Active ageing** multidimensional concept. Addresses: enabling possibilities for longer working life, ensuring social involvement, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and providing opportunities for independent living

- **AAI** a tool (indicators grouped in 4 domains) to monitor the multitude of aspects of active ageing. A product of a 2012 joint project: UNECE, European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; and European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna

- **What it measures?** the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities, and their capacity to age actively.

- **Gender gaps** all the indicators are measured separately for men and women; making it possible to detect gender gaps in active ageing

Active Ageing Index

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

Employment	Participation in Society	Independent, Healthy and Secure Living	Capacity and Enabling Environment for Active Ageing
Employment Rate 55-59	Voluntary activities	Physical exercise	Remaining life expectancy at age 55
Employment Rate 60-64	Care to children and grand children	Access to health services	Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
Employment Rate 65-69	Care to older adults	Independent living	Mental well-being
Employment Rate 70-74	Political participation	Financial security (three indicators)	Use of ICT
		Physical safety	Social connectedness
		Lifelong learning	Educational attainment

Measuring Ageing in the Context of Agenda 2030
Easier said than done

- 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.

- The first challenge facing statisticians was to clarify what it was they were being asked to measure?

Secretary-General Report A/70/185 (2015)

- In the wake of the adoption of the sustainable development goals and targets (the post-2015 environment), the report offered a succinct assessment of age-specific data limitations that impact the effective monitoring of select targets under 6 relevant goals

Goal 1	- Assumptions are made about living arrangements and the allocation of resources - Intra-household differences in income and consumption between sexes and across age-groups are not captured - There remain hidden old-age poverty, which continues to be associated with stigma, discrimination, insecurity, isolation and lack of information on entitlements when they exist

Measuring Ageing in the Context of Agenda 2030
Global Ageing and the Data Revolution

- Expert Group Meeting, New York – July 2015

- **Justification:** some of the critical ageing related priority areas are not easily quantifiable using mainstream statistics. The meeting responds to the need for sound ageing related statistics and data as well as to the needs that will arise from the targets contained in SDGs

- **Objective:** to explore how and which new and non-traditional data sources can support the policy discussions and decision-making on ageing issues at both the national and international levels. Specifically to map non-traditional data sources and identify and document selected citizens-generated data collection approaches

- **Issues highlighted:**
    1. Digital information is generated through: GPS devices, automated teller machines, scanning devices, sensors, mobile phones, satellites and social media
    2. Need to identify new tools to capture and process these data
    3. Need to ensure that no bias is introduce (particular users' groups)
    4. Need to validate data (Fundamental Principles): these data are collected for non-statistical purposes and do not meet statistical standards

Ageing Related Policies and Priorities
in the Implementation of the **2030 Agenda**

- Approximately 85% of the 111 Voluntary National Reviews (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:**
  1. concerns over rapid ageing trends
  2. dependency ratios (an ageist measurement?)
  3. concerns over sustainability of social services, pension- and healthcare systems
  4. ageing as a factor that limits long-term, economic and income growth

- **Reporting in the context of specific Goals:**
  1. The majority of Goal specific efforts are concentrated under SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)
  2. A considerable number of efforts are reported under SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)
  3. Only 3 countries addressed older persons under SDG 5 (Gender Equality) *Canada, Latvia and Singapore*
  4. One country reports on ageing related efforts within the scope of SDG 13 (Climate Action) *Andorra*

Conceptual Considerations for Measuring Ageing
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.** We still face serious data gaps, and data that does exist is insufficient in both quantity and detail.

Thank you!

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Email us ageing@un.org