

Towards a new Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in the UNECE region

A future for all ages

Zero Draft

Version 3 August 2026

Note:

Please use the [provided template](#) for feedback on this draft and submit your comments to the UNECE Secretariat at unece.ageing@un.org. Please submit your comments by 30 September 2026.

Introduction

1. Longer lives reflect major social, economic and public health achievements and create opportunities for continued participation in society in later life. At the same time, population ageing unfolds in a complex global context shaped by digital transformation, including the advances of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, changing labour markets, climate change and environmental risks, geopolitical and economic uncertainties, international and internal migration, and evolving family structures.
2. These trends interact with public policies, local environments, and individual circumstances across the life course to shape the social and structural context of ageing and produce inequalities in health outcomes, economic security, access to services, and opportunities for meaningful participation in later life.
3. Population ageing is not merely a demographic trend but a transformative societal change requiring renewed social contracts, strengthened intergenerational solidarity and fairness, and rights-based policy responses.
4. The UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) presented in this document succeeds the RIS adopted in 2002, addressing changed realities and emerging challenges. It provides strategic directions for a comprehensive policy response addressing both individual ageing, by promoting rights, well-being and opportunities across the life course, and population ageing, by fostering the adaptation of systems and environments to demographic shifts.
5. The strategy presents six interconnected and outcome-oriented goals: Change the narrative on ageing and older persons (I); Support lifelong learning, skills development and digital inclusion (II); Enable and value participation and contribution across life (III); Foster well-being, autonomy and independent living (IV); Enable healthy living in caring communities (V); and Ensure safety, protection and financial security (VI). These provide a framework for an integrated policy response that avoids siloed approaches and fragmentation. While interrelated and mutually reinforcing, each goal addresses a distinct area for action, linking individual outcomes with societal adaptation and supporting a balanced and comprehensive response to demographic change.
6. Implementation of the RIS, while adaptable to unique national and subnational specificities, builds on shared policy principles that support coherence across all goals. These include a commitment to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age, without discrimination of any kind; a life course perspective that views ageing as a lifelong process shaped by experiences, opportunities and conditions across life and promotes early investment and preparation for longer lives; and a focus on intergenerational solidarity and fairness. Effective implementation relies on evidence-informed policymaking, strong governance, and coordination across sectors and levels of government.

7. Attention to the multiple and intersecting factors shaping inequalities, including education, income, gender, disability, migration background and urban-rural and regional disparities is required, as are efforts to promote the responsible and inclusive use of digital and AI technologies. Addressing inequalities and ensuring that digital innovation benefits all groups are critical to building a future for all ages that leaves no one behind.

Towards a future for all ages

I. Change the narrative on ageing and older persons

8. Despite major gains in longevity and the growing diversity of older persons' roles in society, public narratives continue to emphasize burden, decline, homogeneity, and crisis. Such narratives distort demographic realities, reinforce ageism and obscure both the opportunities of longevity and the significant contributions of older persons. Crisis-oriented framing can weaken support for investments in key policies, while negative portrayals can reduce participation and erode intergenerational trust and confidence in institutions. Narratives about ageing and older persons are often shaped by structural inequalities, and social and digital media can amplify stereotypes and negative social norms. Reshaping these narratives is essential to ensure that population ageing is understood not as a threat but as a structural transformation that can strengthen social cohesion, economic resilience and well-being across generations.

1.1 Promote a positive and realistic understanding of ageing as a diverse, dynamic and malleable process

9. Public perceptions of ageing often rely on stereotypes of decline and vulnerability that overlook the diversity of older persons' abilities, aspirations and contributions. Older age is a distinct stage of life with its own value, relationships and contributions, shaped by accumulated experience. Ageing is shaped by policies, environments and access to opportunities across the life course, and is therefore malleable—its trajectory is not fixed but can be changed over time. We commit to promoting a positive, realistic and evidence-informed understanding of ageing through policies that acknowledge diversity, recognize that age alone does not determine capability, and raise awareness of experiences and inequalities that accumulate across the life course. This includes promoting communication that reflects agency, adaptability and contributions of older persons and the social, economic and technological factors that shape ageing experiences.

1.2 Make older persons' contributions visible

10. Many economic, social, cultural and caregiving contributions by older persons remain invisible and undervalued, and gendered patterns across these areas shape opportunities and outcomes across the life course. We commit to strengthening the visibility of older persons' contributions through policies that highlight past and current

contributions across paid and unpaid roles, including work, caregiving, volunteering and community engagement. This includes addressing disparities in recognition, promoting inclusive representation in public and digital discourse and supporting initiatives that showcase agency, creativity, innovation, civic participation.

1.3 Combat ageism by addressing attitudes, behaviours and institutional practices

11. Ageism remains embedded across societies, influencing behaviours and institutional decision-making in workplaces, healthcare systems, media and digital environments. We commit to combatting ageism in all its forms through the development and implementation of policies that challenge stereotypes and prejudices; the enforcement of anti-discrimination frameworks; and the elimination of policies, practices and legislation that directly or indirectly discriminate by age. This includes strengthening early education, vocational training and public communication, and fostering intergenerational activities that build understanding, trust and social cohesion.

1.4 Reframe longevity as an achievement of development and a driver of societal opportunity

12. Population ageing is often framed as a crisis, overshadowing the progress in public health and social development that underpins longer lives. We commit to reframing ageing as a positive transformation through policies that communicate the benefits of longevity and healthier lives, highlight economic and social contributions of older persons, and emphasize opportunities for innovation, inclusive growth and resilient societies. This includes promoting understanding of the longevity economy and its role in shaping inclusive and sustainable development pathways.

1.5 Foster intergenerational solidarity and fairness in public policy

13. Narratives of generational conflict weaken social cohesion. Such framing, though not based on evidence, reinforces divisions in access to resources, participation and opportunities, particularly where inequalities across income, gender, employment and life course experiences persist. We commit to fostering intergenerational solidarity and fairness through policies that counter zero-sum framings, promote shared responsibility and ensure that reforms balance sustainability with equity across the life course. This includes strengthening shared interests such as resilient care systems, sustainable social protection and inclusive economic development, preventive healthcare, and promoting meaningful intergenerational relationships in families, communities, workplaces and public life.

II. Support lifelong learning, skills development and digital inclusion

14. In a context of structural transformations of labour markets and accelerating technological change, opportunities to learn, adapt and engage must be available to

all. Lifelong learning benefits individuals, societies, and economies. It supports financial security, promotes health and well-being, fosters active citizenship, and enhances resilience. It strengthens social cohesion, supports innovation, enables adaptation to technological and societal change and ensures individuals have the necessary skills to contribute to their communities and changing labour markets. Age-related stereotypes and discriminatory practices continue to limit access to learning and skills development. Ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities across the life course that are tailored to the diverse needs of citizens as they get older is central to active and healthy ageing and inclusive societies. As services, workplaces and civic processes increasingly rely on digital systems, digital inclusion is critical for ensuring equitable participation and engagement regardless of age or other individual characteristics.

2.1 Recognize lifelong learning as a collective good and public responsibility

15. Opportunities for lifelong learning uphold the fundamental human right to education and empower individuals to grow, adapt and contribute meaningfully across the life course. We recognize the value of lifelong learning for individuals, communities, and societies and commit to the right to education in later life as a public policy responsibility, anchoring and integrating learning opportunities across the life course in new and existing frameworks across sectors and levels of government. This includes investments in data collection and research on older persons' learning by modality and disaggregated by individual characteristics to strengthen the evidence base on lifelong learning.

2.2 Ensure sufficient and inclusive access to learning opportunities across life

16. Insufficient and unequal access to learning opportunities limit the ability to adapt, participate and manage transitions across the life course. In many places, the availability of learning opportunities remains inadequate and concentrated in urban centres. We commit to expanding equitable access to lifelong learning through actions that increase the availability of flexible, affordable, accommodating and diverse learning pathways across formal, non-formal and informal settings. This includes removing age-related restrictions to education and training, addressing age-based discrimination, enabling flexible entry, re-entry and progression across education systems, and providing tailored support for groups facing structural barriers to an increasingly digitalized world.

2.3 Build age-inclusive education systems

17. Age-inclusive education systems cater to a diverse spectrum of learning needs, address a broad range of topics, and engage older persons in their design and implementation. We commit to building age-inclusive systems through policies that provide diverse formal, non-formal and informal learning modalities in all areas grounded in educational gerontology practices. This includes community-based learning and formats based on peer-to-peer methods and intergenerational exchange. Topics such as digital, health, and financial literacy, civic education, language learning

including for older migrants, and learning that supports key life transitions such as returning to work, career changes, retirement planning and caregiving should be prioritized.

2.4 Strengthen learning opportunities and outcomes for older workers

18. Resilient economies and cohesive societies depend on the ability of older workers to maintain productive working lives. Access to training and learning opportunities including in later life enhance the quality of work life for individuals and ensure workers' skills reflect changing labour markets, evolving with digital and green transformations and new ways of working. We commit to strengthening learning opportunities and outcomes for older workers by providing training that leads to recognized skills and qualifications and improving access for all older workers including those with low levels of education, persons with a disability, informal workers, and those in rural and remote areas. This involves the recognition, validation and accreditation of prior learning including formal, non-formal, and informal learning, unlocking opportunities for further learning and fostering a culture of lifelong learning in labour markets.

2.5 Ensure digital inclusion and equal access to technology and public services

19. Digital exclusion and unequal access to assistive technologies compromise access to essential services, learning and work opportunities, social interaction and civic engagement, reinforcing disparities in autonomy, participation and well-being. We commit to age-inclusive digital infrastructure and access to technology through policies that promote universal design for technological infrastructure, develop and enforce accessibility standards for digital technologies, ensure affordable and reliable devices and connectivity, and empower and facilitate older persons to participate fully in the digital world. This includes ensuring equitable access to public services by retaining analogue and hybrid service options, while providing tailored support for online and AI-enabled services.

2.6 Improve digital literacy and promote the safe use of digital technologies

20. Digital inclusion depends on relevant digital skills, strong digital literacy and safe online environments. We commit to enhancing digital skills and digital literacy among older persons through policies that expand access to learning opportunities to acquire digital skills that are informed by educational gerontology and promote digital and AI literacy. We commit to fostering safe and inclusive digital environments that protect older adults from algorithmic bias and digital fraud, abuse, and ageism. This includes demand-driven, applied and peer-to-peer approaches to digital skills development and measures to protect privacy, personal data, and consumer rights, prevent misinformation, and ensure digital systems are inclusive, trustworthy and safe.

III. Enable and value participation and contribution across life

21. As people live longer, healthier lives and transitions across education, work, care and community roles become more diverse, societies must create equitable opportunities for all persons to participation in economic, political and civic life across the life course and support contributions in their many forms. Valuing participation in its different forms—including paid and unpaid work, caregiving, volunteering and civic engagement—requires removing structural and age-based barriers, fostering inclusive environments, enabling intergenerational exchange, and recognizing contributions across the life course. Participation is shaped by inequalities that accumulate over time. Full, equal and meaningful participation in older age therefore depends on inclusion across the life course.

3.1 Build age-inclusive labour markets and provide fair access to decent work

22. Adaptive labour markets enable longer working lives. Safe, healthy and accommodating work environments, fair treatment in recruitment and retention, and equal opportunities for training and career progression ensure older persons who wish and are able to work can remain active in the workforce. We commit to inclusive labour markets through policies that promote accessible working conditions, improve occupational safety and health, address age-based discrimination, and ensure equal access to vocational training and lifelong learning. We commit to equitable access to decent work across the life course through policies that remove age-based barriers to employment, strengthen opportunities for upskilling and reskilling including digital skills development, and provide tailored support for jobseekers facing multiple and intersecting barriers.

3.2 Enable diverse work transitions across life

23. Transitions between education, work, care responsibilities and retirement are increasingly diverse, challenging outdated assumptions of linear working lives and fixed retirement patterns. We commit to supporting work transitions across the life course by enabling individuals to combine paid and unpaid work and move between education, employment, caregiving and other roles. This includes promoting flexible working arrangements, addressing gender inequalities in care responsibilities and retirement policies, and ensuring that pathways between different roles and statuses remain accessible throughout life.

3.3 Recognize and support unpaid contribution and civic engagement

24. Unpaid contributors—including caregivers, volunteers and community leaders—play vital roles across society, yet these contributions often remain unrecognized and undervalued, particularly for women and those with limited financial resources. Inequalities in access to support services, social protection and participation opportunities can limit the ability to engage in unpaid and civic roles. We commit to recognizing and supporting unpaid contribution and civic engagement through policies that reduce barriers to participation, strengthen volunteering opportunities and improve recognition within social protection frameworks. This

includes creating enabling environments that support continued engagement across the life course, recognizing the diversity and importance of unpaid roles and supporting efforts to quantify the value of unpaid work and contribution.

3.4 Promote lifelong engagement and entrepreneurship

25. Ensuring opportunities for engagement, creativity and innovation later in life bolsters individual well-being and benefits societies. Providing access to finance, networks, and fair and regulated competition, can overcome barriers to engagement, particularly for individuals facing multiple forms of disadvantage. We commit to enabling lifelong engagement through policies that expand opportunities for economic participation and support pathways for entrepreneurship, self-employment, and new forms of work. This includes promoting access to training, finance, digital technologies and advisory support, and enabling individuals to contribute their skills, knowledge and experience across different sectors and stages of life.

3.5 Unlock the longevity economy for inclusive growth

26. Rising longevity creates opportunities for innovation and enterprise and economic growth when supported by enabling environments and inclusive market frameworks. However, unequal access to resources, digital technologies and economic opportunities can limit participation in emerging sectors. We commit to fostering an inclusive longevity economy through policies that promote age-friendly products and services, support enterprises, and encourage innovation that responds to diverse needs. This also includes strengthening consumer protection, ensuring accessibility in digital markets and enabling safe and informed participation across economic and commercial activities.

3.6 Ensure full, equal and meaningful participation in public decision-making

27. Older persons remain underrepresented in political, civic and institutional decision-making processes even in matters that directly impact their lives, despite their experience and contributions. Barriers to participation may include accessibility constraints, limited outreach, digital exclusion and a lack of inclusive engagement mechanisms. We commit to ensure the right to full, equal and meaningful participation through policies that establish inclusive governance and social dialogue mechanisms, expand advisory and participatory platforms and ensure accessible public consultation processes. This includes improving outreach, strengthening representation, promoting intergenerational exchange, expanding opportunities for civic and political education in later life, and improving data on participation to support more inclusive and evidence-informed policymaking.

IV. Foster well-being, autonomy and independent living

28. Well-being, autonomy and independent living are central to quality of life at all ages, supported by accessible environments, inclusive communities, strong social

connections and access to essential services. Social connectedness is critical to resilience, enabling individuals to maintain independence and participate fully in community life. Autonomy depends not only on individual circumstances but also on the social, economic and institutional conditions that enable people to exercise choice and control over their lives. Creating the conditions for well-being, autonomy and independent living requires policies that reduce structural inequalities, while strengthening inclusive environments and intra- and intergenerational connections that support participation across the life course.

4.1 Reduce loneliness and social isolation

29. Loneliness and social isolation seriously impact health, well-being, quality of life, and longevity, particularly for individuals experiencing bereavement, declining health, reduced mobility, intensive caregiving responsibilities or living in rural or remote areas. These risks are often compounded by inequalities in income, access to services, transport, and digital connectivity. We commit to reducing loneliness and social isolation through policies that strengthen social support and foster meaningful relationships across the life course. This includes identifying individuals at higher risk, improving data collection on social connection, strengthening outreach and support services, and promoting physical and digital environments that enable regular social contact, inclusion and a sense of belonging.

4.2 Promote equal access to community life

30. Active participation in community life provides a sense of purpose with benefits for life satisfaction and longevity, yet access remains uneven due to barriers related to accessibility, affordability, discrimination, geography, digital exclusion and unequal access to information and services. We commit promoting equal access to community life through policies that remove barriers to participation and ensure that all individuals can engage in social, cultural, recreational and civic activities on an equal basis. This includes improving access to information, public spaces and community services promoting inclusive service delivery and ensuring that participation opportunities are responsive to diverse needs, interests, abilities and life course experiences.

4.3 Create enabling environments for participation

31. Many public spaces, transport systems and community infrastructures remain inaccessible, limiting mobility, safety and independence for older persons. These barriers disproportionately affect persons with a disability, those with low incomes and people living in rural, remote and underserved areas. We commit to creating enabling environments for participation through policies that promote universal and inclusive design, improve the accessibility, affordability and usability of transport systems across different geographic contexts, and ensure that public spaces and essential services are safe, accessible and welcoming to people of all ages. This includes strengthening walkability, enhancing physical and digital connectivity and improving access to services across urban, rural and remote areas.

4.4 Ensure access to affordable, accessible and age-adapted housing

32. Housing conditions have a significant impact on independence, health and well-being, particularly for individuals facing mobility limitations, financial constraints, limited support networks, or living in rural and remote areas. We commit to ensuring access to housing that supports independent living through policies that expand affordable, accessible and age-adapted housing options, strengthen home-modification programmes and promote community-based living arrangements. This includes improving coordination between housing, health and social services, and ensuring access to assistive technologies that support safe and independent living.

4.5 Build connected and supportive communities

33. Strong communities play a vital role in promoting well-being, resilience, mutual support and social inclusion. Community networks and social infrastructure remain unevenly distributed, reflecting differences in local capacity and geographic context. We commit to building connected and supportive communities through policies that strengthen community networks, promote intergenerational interaction, support volunteering and community-led initiatives, and foster opportunities for mutual support and engagement. This includes expanding access to social, cultural and recreational activities, supporting local networks and enabling individuals to fulfil their right to remain connected to their families, communities and wider society throughout the life course.

V. Enable healthy living in caring communities

34. Health outcomes in older age are shaped not only by individual behaviours but also by social, economic and environmental determinants across the life course which affect opportunities for healthy ageing, including access to services, living conditions and social support. As populations age, ensuring equitable access to integrated, person-centred health and long-term care systems becomes increasingly important. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is required to strengthen health systems, build a sustainable and adequately supported care economy, promote prevention and ensure that care is accessible, affordable and responsive to diverse needs. Addressing inequalities is central to this objective, as women tend to live longer but often experience poorer health outcomes and greater care needs, while disparities related to income, disability, geography and migration background continue to affect access to services. Age-related biases in health and long-term care systems and the growing role of digital health technologies call for strategies to promote inclusive and rights-based access to services at all ages.

5.1 Enable healthy living

35. Health outcomes in later life are shaped across the life course by access to healthy environments, preventive services and opportunities to adopt healthy behaviours. We commit to enabling healthy living through policies that promote prevention, strengthen public health systems and support healthy lifestyles across

populations. This includes promoting safe living environments, healthy diets, physical activity, brain health as well as strengthening occupational health and safety. It also includes improving health literacy across different population groups, addressing inequalities in access to healthy choices and ensuring that health promotion strategies are integrated across sectors and responsive to diverse needs.

5.2 Foster mental health and emotional well-being

36. Mental health challenges, including loneliness, stress, anxiety and depression affect many older persons and can be exacerbated by social isolation, inequality and limited access to services. We commit to fostering mental health and emotional well-being through policies that expand access to prevention, early identification, counselling and treatment. This includes strengthening community-based and psychosocial support systems, promoting social participation as a protective factor and ensuring that digital technologies complement—rather than replace—care provided by health and social care workers. It also includes recognizing the role of intergenerational relationships and community networks in supporting mental well-being across the life course.

5.3 Ensure universal access to high-quality, person-centred health and social care

37. Barriers in accessibility, affordability and quality continue to limit equitable access to care, particularly for individuals with complex needs, cognitive impairments, dementia, limited mobility or those living in rural and remote areas. We commit to ensuring universal access to high-quality, person-centred health, social, and long-term care systems through policies that support deinstitutionalization, strengthen community- and home-based services, integrate prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and improve coordination across health, social and long-term care systems. This includes expanding palliative and end-of-life care, ensuring continuity of care in emergencies and promoting the responsible use of digital health and telemedicine solutions to improve access while safeguarding quality, dignity and inclusion.

5.4 Address workforce challenges in health and social care

38. Shortages of trained personnel, unequal working conditions, and limited career pathways undermine the capacity of health and long-care systems to respond to demographic change. We therefore commit to strengthening and sustaining the workforce through policies that ensure decent work for health and social care workers in formal and informal employment, in line with international labour standards, including adequate remuneration, safe and healthy working conditions, career development and access to social protection. This includes expanding education and training in geriatrics, gerontology, primary healthcare, digital competencies and person-centred care, strengthening workforce planning and addressing challenges related to an ageing workforce, labour shortages and the role of migration and migrant

workers. It also includes supporting inclusive working environments and promoting participation across all age groups within the workforce.

5.5 Support informal carers

39. Informal carers—often women and frequently older persons themselves—provide essential support that sustains families, communities and care systems, yet frequently face financial strain, limited respite and risks to their own health and well-being. We commit to supporting informal carers, including family carers and other unpaid caregivers, through policies that expand respite and counselling services, provide training and information, and ensure access to social protection. This includes recognizing the diversity of carers, including young carers, strengthening community-based services that complement unpaid care, and promoting a more equitable sharing of care responsibilities in the community, across society and between generations.

VI. Ensure safety, protection and financial security

40. Older persons may face intersecting risks to their safety, security and human rights—including poverty, income insecurity, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud and social exclusion—often shaped by cumulative disadvantage across the life course. These risks are compounded by existing inequalities. Broader pressures such as rising living costs, digitalization, climate-related hazards, pandemics, conflict and displacement further affect both physical safety and financial security of specific groups of older persons. Age-related discrimination and barriers in access to services, justice systems and financial instruments can further exacerbate vulnerability, while increasing reliance on digital systems introduces both new risks and new opportunities, underscoring the importance of digital inclusion and bridging the digital divide. Ensuring safety, protection and financial security requires coordinated, inclusive and forward-looking policy approaches that strengthen resilience, promote intergenerational fairness and support participation across all areas of social and economic life.

6.1 Protect older persons from violence, abuse, neglect and mistreatment

41. Older persons face heightened risks of violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation in domestic, institutional and digital environments, while many incidents remain underreported due to stigma, dependency or limited access to support services. The risk among older women of gender-based and sexual violence does not disappear with age but is often invisible. These risks may be compounded by inequality, social isolation and inadequate institutional safeguards. We commit to strengthening protection through policies that reinforce legal frameworks, expand accessible reporting channels and improve victim-support services. This includes enhancing coordination across health, social, justice and law enforcement systems, strengthening professional training and ensuring that prevention and response

mechanisms are inclusive, accessible and responsive to diverse needs, including in digital contexts.

6.2 Ensure financial security and prevent poverty and social exclusion

42. Many older persons, especially older women, face income insecurity due to interrupted careers, unpaid care responsibilities, gender disparities in earnings or limited access to pension systems. These inequalities can accumulate over the life course and contribute to poverty and exclusion in older age. We commit to strengthening financial security through policies that ensure adequate and predictable pensions, expand targeted income support and reduce barriers to accessing benefits. This includes improving financial literacy, ensuring safe and equitable access to digital financial services, protecting older persons from excessive out-of-pocket costs related to health and long-term care, addressing the needs of groups at higher risk of economic insecurity, and supporting participation in economic and social life.

6.3 Strengthen individual preparedness and resilience in crises

43. Crises—including pandemics, extreme weather events, economic shocks, conflict and displacement—disproportionately affect older persons due to health conditions, mobility constraints or limited access to information and support systems. We commit to strengthening individual preparedness and resilience through policies that ensure accessible and age-responsive emergency planning, provide clear and timely communication and tailor support measures to diverse individual needs before, during and after a crisis. This includes involving older persons in preparedness and response planning, strengthening coordination across institutions and ensuring inclusive recovery processes that support resilience across the life course and for all generations.

6.4 Develop sustainable, transparent and equitable social protection and pension systems

44. Demographic change places increasing pressure on the sustainability and fairness of social protection systems, with implications for adequacy, intergenerational balance and long-term fiscal stability. At the same time, population ageing presents opportunities for these systems if accompanied by policies that formalize employment and support flexible work and retirement. We commit to strengthening social protection systems through policies that improve governance, transparency and communication, while ensuring equitable access to benefits. This includes adapting systems to diverse employment histories and unpaid care roles, aligning policies with changing labour-market patterns, ensuring gender equality and fairness across generations, and maintaining financial sustainability through frameworks to engage and integrate underrepresented and informal workers.

6.5 Strengthen institutional safeguards, prevention and access to justice

45. Institutional weaknesses, limited oversight and unequal access to justice can leave older persons vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and abuse. Barriers to

their right to justice may be exacerbated by the digital divide, lack of accessible information and unequal institutional capacity. We commit to strengthening safeguards through policies that enhance legal protections, improve oversight mechanisms and expand access to complaints and appeals systems. This includes strengthening institutional capacity, improving professional training and ensuring that justice systems are accessible, responsive and inclusive.

6.6 Enhance societal resilience to structural and emerging risks

46. Increasing exposure to systemic risks such as climate change, digital vulnerabilities, including through artificial intelligence, economic instability and large-scale displacement present emerging challenges for societies for all ages. These risks interact with existing inequalities and require integrated responses. We commit to strengthening resilience through policies that integrate population ageing into broader risk-reduction and adaptation strategies. This includes improving early-warning systems and ensuring digital inclusion, strengthening inclusive crisis-response mechanisms and ensuring that the needs and capacities of older persons are reflected in planning, action and recovery processes across all sectors.

VII. Implementation and follow-up

47. Effective implementation of the RIS requires strategic foresight, long-term planning, and sustained political commitment. It needs to be underpinned by adequate resources, institutional capacity and coordinated action across sectors and levels of governance. It further relies on effective governance arrangements, mainstreaming ageing across all relevant policy domains, sustainable financing, robust evidence systems, meaningful participation and regional cooperation. Creating societies for all ages that leave no one behind cannot be achieved by government alone – it constitutes a whole-of-society effort involving civil society, academia, social partners, the private sector and people of all generations, including older persons.

7.1 Integrate ageing into public policy and planning

48. We commit to translating the strategy into nationally tailored, evidence-informed action plans and policies. This includes integrating ageing considerations across policymaking, including legislation, regulatory frameworks and policy impact assessments and combining mainstreaming ageing with targeted measures and responsive budgeting to address vulnerability, support the full enjoyment of human rights and enable systems to adapt to demographic change.

7.2 Build effective governance for ageing-related policies

49. We commit to strengthening the governance of ageing-related policy, including by establishing or strengthening entities responsible for coordinating ageing-related policies, defining clear institutional responsibilities across sectors and levels of

governance, and strengthening administrative and analytical capacities to support coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

7.3 Align financing with demographic change

50. We commit to ensuring adequate, sustainable financing in line with demographic trends and long-term strategic objectives, prioritizing investments that improve outcomes and reduce long-term pressures, including health promotion, lifelong learning, age-friendly environments and community-based services. This includes addressing structural inequalities in resource allocation and leveraging innovative financing approaches and partnerships.

7.4 Strengthen local capacity for policy implementation

51. We commit to strengthening local implementation through enhanced local capacity, integrated service delivery and age-friendly environments at the local level, place-based approaches reflecting geographic diversity, and equitable access to services and opportunities across all geographies.

7.5 Foster participation and shared ownership

52. To ensure inclusive decision-making and foster strong partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, we commit to institutionalizing mechanisms that ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of all generations and their organizations throughout the policy cycle, including in policy design, implementation and evaluation. This includes supporting civil society organizations in service delivery, knowledge generation and progress monitoring, engaging with the private sector to promote innovation, inclusive labour markets and access to services, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration to strengthen implementation and shared ownership of outcomes.

7.6 Strengthen evidence-informed policymaking

53. We commit to producing robust, reliable and comparable data and statistics on ageing and older persons and strengthening analytical and foresight capacities to monitor and anticipate demographic trends, identify persisting inequalities, measure the impact of policies across generations, inform policy adjustment and guide resource allocation. This includes addressing data gaps and ensuring data disaggregation by age, sex, disability status, migration background and geography, where appropriate, the use of agreed methodologies and indicator frameworks to monitor progress and supporting research and knowledge generation on individual and population ageing.

7.7 Advance regional cooperation and mutual learning

54. We reaffirm the importance of regional and international cooperation in advancing policy-relevant analysis, tools, knowledge and experience exchange and mutual/peer learning to guide the implementation, monitoring and periodic reviews and appraisal of this strategy. We commit to advance regional cooperation on ageing through the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing and leverage the regional

platform it offers for intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder cooperation, policy dialogue and knowledge exchange.

55. We commit to actively contributing to the work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, including evidence-building and analysis, policy guidance, and capacity-building. This includes providing voluntary in-kind and financial contributions, designating national focal points on ageing and supporting the development and use of regional tools, such as the UNECE Ageing Policies Database and the Active Ageing Index, to promote comparability, peer learning and evidence-informed policymaking.

7.8 Monitor progress and review implementation

56. We commit to reviewing progress in the implementation of this strategy through the periodic five-year review and appraisal cycles of MIPAA and its internationally agreed modalities. These reviews should support mutual learning, identify policy gaps and emerging challenges, and inform the continuous adaptation and improvement of ageing-related policies and programmes.