

Expert Group Meeting: “Measuring population ageing: Bridging Research and Policy”, Bangkok, Thailand, 25–26 February 2019

Session 2: Ageing in the global development agenda

Chair: *ESCAP*

1. Presentation: tbd (10-15 minutes)
Amal A Rafeh, DISD/UN
2. Presentation: Ageing (measurements) in the context of SDGs, ICPD and MIPAA (10-15 minutes)
Storey Angele, Titchfield ONSO from the younger to the older ages

the declining levels of fertility, and also by the increases of life expectancy that most everywhere. There is considerable international diversity in the onset and ageing, which, according to United Nations data, is most advanced in Japan Europe, followed by Northern America. Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Oceania are projected to follow similar trends over the next few decades. Even countries, whose populations are still relatively young, the absolute number of growing rapidly, and is leading to long-term shifts in the age-structure.

United Nations and most researchers have used measures and indicators that are based on people’s chronological age, which provides a simple, clear and easily measure and track various indicators of ageing. At the same time, there has been concern that the health status, type and level of activity, productivity, and other socio-economics of older persons have changed significantly over the last century, and even decades. This has led to the development of alternative concepts and measures provide different outlooks on the levels and trends of ageing, and a more nuanced view of ageing means in different contexts. At the frontline is the Characteristics measurement of population ageing developed at IIASA.

The various approaches to understanding and measuring ageing, have important implications for the design and implementation of national development policies and programs, and for the monitoring and review of internationally agreed development goals that are related to population ageing. Specifically, the different ways of measuring ageing affect the demographic evolution of the number of older persons, their living conditions, their needs in the societies where they live and their needs for social protection. They have

significant implications for labour markets, life-long education and health, and the interactions and mutual support of older persons with the younger generations.

Recognizing the diverse stages and characteristics of ageing in various regions of the world, as well as the recent developments and innovations in measurement, the Population Division the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA), and Chulalongkorn University, in collaboration with the Social Development Division of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), are organizing an international expert group meeting on “*Measuring Population Ageing: Bridging Research and Policy*”, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 26 February 2019.

This expert meeting will seek to take stock of different concepts and methodologies, and their applicability to and usefulness for various policy analyses and purposes. It will bring together experts to discuss key questions related to the measurement of population ageing, including discussion of traditional and new concepts and methods, and to assess their scope and limitations to support national policy design and implementation, as well as the regional and global review of progress in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, as noted above. Experts from governmental and international organizations, from research institutions as well as civil society organizations will be invited to discuss the applicability of various measures of ageing in different contexts.

This session will discuss Ageing in the global development agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a universal plan of action to achieve sustainable development in a balanced manner and seeks to realize the human rights of all people. It calls for leaving no one behind and for ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met for all segments of society, at all ages, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable—including older persons.

Demographers early on have recognized population ageing as a success story. Frank W. Notestein, the first Director of the Population Division, stated at the Symposium on Social and Economic Problems of Ageing’ in 1953 convened at the American Philosophical Society that ‘viewed as a whole the ‘problem of ageing’ is not a problem at all. It is only the pessimistic way of looking at a great triumph of civilization’. Two World Assemblies on Ageing (Vienna 1982 & Madrid 2002) were convened by the United Nations for the international community to recognize population ageing as a challenge, but more so as an opportunity for development.

While the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in September 20

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Discuss the need for different and more appropriate ways of defining and measuring