

Global Symposium on Ageing, Seoul 2017

The Second Demographic Dividend in the Context of the 2030 Agenda *Promoting Resilience and Sustainability in an Ageing World*

October 23 (Mon) – 24 (Tue), 2017

Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Korea

Organized by

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)

Overview

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) will host the Global Symposium on Ageing. The Symposium which will be held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 23–24 October 2017, and will contribute to the global review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (MIPAA), which was agreed 15 years ago. The MIPAA recognized ageing as a global trend and links questions of ageing to other frameworks of social and economic development and human rights, and it remains of undiminished importance for the global, regional and national efforts to pursue the SDGs. To ambition of MIPAA to promote a “society of all ages” and assure the wellbeing of a large and growing number of older persons, directly speaks to the principle of Agenda 2030 of “leaving no one behind”.

The symposium will bring together thought leaders in the field of ageing, including policy makers, academics, civil society, the private sector, and representatives of international agencies, to review past developments, current challenges, and future actions. It will provide inputs in particular to the United Nations Inter-Governmental Conference on MIPAA early 2018, and inter alia it will support the integration of aging issues in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs that are at its heart.

Population ageing is an increasing segment of older persons in the population of a region due to declining fertility rates and/or rising life expectancy. As fertility declines in many regions of the world, and gains in life expectancy spread to an increasing segment of the global population, the social and economic implications of an ageing society are of keen concern to many governments. While the share of older persons in the total population is highest in the more advanced economies, the speed of population aging is fast and accelerating in virtually all developing countries. This is even true in the poorest countries of the world in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, making aging a truly omnipresent and far-reaching trend of our times. Because of the significant speed of population aging in many developing countries, many are concerned that they might grow old before they grow rich and that they will not be able to offer adequate financial support to the older population. The Republic of Korea and neighboring “Asian Tigers”, including Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, have been identified outstanding examples of countries that were able to realize a first demographic dividend

when their working age populations were large and growing. Now the Republic of Korea and many countries in the region, as well as outside, are wondering whether and how they can reap a “second demographic dividend” which can come with population aging.

Responding to concerns about population aging, and the ambition of many governments to realize a second demographic dividend that can come with population aging, the Symposium will also dedicate time to debate the second demographic dividend. Understanding whether and how population aging might affect social and economic development, is essential for the formulation of adequate policy responses, and for the promotion of sustainability and resilience amidst an aging world. This poses critical questions about whether policies regarding education, health, and woman’s empowerment which led to the first demographic dividend offer future prospects for a “second demographic dividend”, including a sustainable economy with high rates of innovative investment and productivity, as well as lifelong health and well-being for all persons, including older persons.

UNFPA has championed policies and investments to advance a first demographic dividend in partnership with the African Union (AU), the World Economic Forum (WEF), and numerous governments across Africa. UNFPA is also building capacity within many developing countries on the use of SDGs to monitor and track development. As UNFPA is now hosting the Programme on Global Ageing, in collaboration with KOSTAT, together these two institutions are well-positioned to gather thought-leaders in demography, population health, SDGs, public policy, and economic development, to address the following three dimensions of global ageing:

What are the current trends? Not all developed countries are ageing at the same speed, with fertility far below replacement in some countries, just below or above replacement fertility in others. How do these differences affect trends in age structure, health, household composition, labor force dynamics, and economic risk? What has been the impact of different population policies on fertility and migration for population ageing?

National policies for a Second Demographic Dividend (SDD): What is the definition of a second demographic dividend, and how well have policies contributed to its realization in ageing countries? What are the prospects for simultaneously stimulating productivity and economic growth, long-term health, life-long learning, human rights, and community development in ageing countries?

MIPAA and SDGs for older persons: The MIPAA, which was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing by government representatives from all over the globe in 2002, continues to serve as one of the main guiding frameworks for UNFPA work of stock-taking on global ageing. The overarching emphasis of the UNFPA’s strategy will be to promote the inclusion of ageing concerns into all policy fields with the aim of securing gender-sensitive and evidence-based coordinated and integrated policies to bring societies and economies into harmony with demographic change. The

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator framework proposes that stratifying indicators by age will make it possible to monitor the status and needs of older people. But how adequate are the data sources for older people, and to what extent will disaggregation at higher ages be possible? Are there enough data for baselines and milestones? We must examine the potential of the SDGs for monitoring the second demographic dividend, and the well-being of older persons.

With the symposium, UNFPA and KOSTAT will also support the preparations of stakeholders for the debates and discussions within the forthcoming UN inter-government process, allowing government representatives (from countries at all stages of ageing) and other stakeholders to participate and learn from one another, and assuring that all participants leave the meeting with a better understanding of how effectively the three pillars of the MIPAA framework and the SDG indicators can be used to monitor the well-being of older persons, and the preparedness for ageing societies.

The three pillars of MIPAA -- older persons and development (pillar 1), advancing health and well-being into old age (pillar 2), and implementing an enabling and supportive environment (pillar 3) -- provide the broad organizing principle for the Symposium. The symposium will combine plenary and parallel technical sessions, thematically organized around panels of speakers to foster debate and discussion. Rapporteurs, facilitators, and plenary speakers will work together to capture key messages for the media, topics for further study, data gaps within the SDGs, and topics within the inter-governmental negotiations of MIPAA+15 recommendations. For further details, please consult the agenda.