

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific

21-22 January 2011

Nanjing, China

### **Aide-mémoire**

#### **I. Organizational arrangements**

The Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing a Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific from 21 to 22 January 2011 in Nanjing, China.

The Regional Forum will be held at the Purple Palace Nanjing, China.

#### **II. Participation**

The Meeting will be attended by experts on population ageing and elderly care services, from governments, research institutions and civil society organizations as well as relevant international organizations.

#### **III. Objectives of the Meeting**

The objective of the Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific is to identify good practices, policy gaps and priority areas for action in ensuring quality health and long-term care services for older persons in Asia and the Pacific.

The outcome of the Regional Forum will feed into the Preparatory Meeting and High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the second Asia-Pacific regional review and appraisal of the implementation of the global mandate on ageing, that is, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). The good practices identified at the Forum will be documented and disseminated through a range of ESCAP platforms.

#### **IV. Substantive preparations**

The participants are expected to share experiences and good practices in relation to the provision of elderly care services and support. To this end, the Regional Forum will include a combination of plenary sessions, group discussion and field visits. Particular attention will be given to the gender dimension.

#### **V. Context**

The world's population aged 60 years and over stands at 760 million in 2010 and is anticipated to pass the 1 billion mark by the end of the current decade. Asia-Pacific is at the forefront of the global phenomenon of population ageing. The number of older

persons is rising at a pace unprecedented and a scale unmatched by that of any other region in the world. The number of older persons in Asia-Pacific is estimated to triple from 415 million at present to 1.25 billion by 2050. Older persons will constitute up to 25 per cent by 2050, from only about 10 per cent now.

Population ageing will have major implications on the type of health care and social care support that they will require. The region has also been undergoing a morbidity transition from communicable to non-communicable diseases. Current morbidity trends of older persons reveal that chronic conditions are increasing among persons above the age of 65.

Despite the projected increase in the proportion of older persons and their demand of health and social care services, most countries in the region have only limited capacity to meet the need for geriatric services. Staff in the health care and social service institutions are not adequately equipped with knowledge and skills in addressing the special care needs of older persons.

With the profound impact already felt in some countries, governments are awakening to the need to begin preparing for an ageing society. There is a great need for regional cooperation to share good practices among countries in order to build capacity in meeting the needs of older persons. Good practices and modalities identified will help governments develop appropriate policies and programmes to ensure the health and well-being of older persons in their countries.

The Regional Forum will provide the platform to exchange good practices and explore policy options in addressing the challenges of rapid ageing, particularly to meet the need to develop a continuum of affordable, accessible, high quality, age-friendly and culturally appropriate health, rehabilitation, palliative and social services for older persons.

The Asia-Pacific region will begin its second regional review and appraisal of the implementation of the MIPAA in 2011. The Regional Forum will also serve as an important platform to identify concrete recommendations for action in this review that will feed into the Preparatory Meeting and the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the second Asia-Pacific regional review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA.

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