

Various International Initiatives

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)

160 UN Member States adopted the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in April 2002. Later, the General Assembly affirmed the Plan on December 2002 during its 57th session. The document addresses four major areas of concern: older persons and development; health and well-being into old age; enabling and supportive environments for ageing; and implementation and follow-up. While MIPAA asks governments to integrate the rights and needs of older persons into national and international economic and social development policies, the plan is not legally binding. Therefore, MIPPA relies on each government's willingness and capacity for implementation.

Read More: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/madrid_intlplanaction.html

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Older Persons (December 8, 1995)

The Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights was created by the Member States parties to the 1995 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve its translation into acts by drawing governments' attention on the implementation's insufficiencies. This document demonstrates how the UN mainstreams older persons in its work. It contains Committee's recommendations on how to implement this comprehensive treaty on older person's economic, social and cultural rights.

Read More:

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/482a0aced8049067c12563ed005acf9e?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/482a0aced8049067c12563ed005acf9e?OpenDocument)

International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (1994)

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 179 countries recognized the interdependence of population and development. The conference adopted a 20-year Programme of Action, which includes provisions to protect older persons, particularly with regard to establishing social security systems; eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination; increasing access to healthcare; and assisting those displaced during conflict. The subsequent Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing incorporated these provisions six years later.

Read More: http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpd_poa.htm

Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982)

UN Member States adopted the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing at the World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna, Austria in 1982. The Vienna Plan was the first international agreement to guide policies and programs on aging and included the following areas: health and nutrition, protection on elderly consumers, housing and environment, family, social welfare, income security and employment, and education. Critics argue that the Plan did little to address older persons' issues in poor countries. In 2002, the more inclusive Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing replaced the Vienna Plan.

Read More: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/vienna_intlplanofaction.html

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 1948)

This fundamental text describes the values, rights and goals of the United Nations and specifically mentions the security of human beings in their old age.

Read More: <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>