

Population Issues Working Group Teleconference

**Thursday, February 26, 2015
Minutes**

Participants:

Assia Billig, Chair
Sam Gutterman, Vice-Chair
Yair Babad
Rob Brown
Christopher Daykin
Adrian Gallop
Dermot Grenham
Martin Stevenson

Secretariat:

Christian Levac
Nancy Kelly, Administrative Assistant

1. Introduction

Assia welcomed everyone and thanked all for their participation today. She referred to the brief agenda sent out by email, stating that the discussion would primarily focus on the Retirement Age report in progress. She introduced herself as the new Chair of the Working Group and thanked Sam Gutterman for accepting appointment as Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

2. Progress on Retirement Age Report

Assia referred to the many comments shared by email on the draft chapters circulated prior to the call. She indicated that the next step for these chapters will be to provide and incorporate specific editorial input on the paper itself rather than just generic comments.

Assia briefly reviewed the other sections of the paper and areas of importance. It was agreed that, although various sections have been previously assigned to specific members, those areas that required further expertise could be reviewed/drafted by others to fill in identified gaps. She stressed that, due to time constraints leading up to the Zurich meeting, both editorial and substantive input were of the utmost importance in order to move the paper forward.

The group briefly discussed how the paper would be laid out and its approach. They agreed that Chapter 1 would provide its overall message and purpose while stressing the need to be extremely clear at the outset, as countries have quite different situations and laws. They also agreed it was important to differentiate the retirement age and entitlement age (the latter for

social security benefits) in this section. Yair will work on the Introduction, Adrian and Sam agreed to work collaboratively on Chapter 2, based on a draft developed by Morteza to be circulated by March 8; Yair will work on Chapter 4; and Assia and Martin will work on Chapter 5. Sam pointed out that the concept of sustainability should be addressed in the latter chapter.

The general consensus was that retirement was a relatively new and evolving concept and that its evolving nature should be emphasized, in addition to other relevant factors, including economic, mortality, morbidity, technological and job market changes. The challenge will be, given the fast pace of change, to tackle all of these influences on both the finances of social security systems and the needs of population sub-groups and the individual.

Action Item:

- *Assia requested that the draft paper be worked up and ready to be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting in Zurich (March 29). A decent draft of each section should be circulated by March 15th for a final round of e-mail comments before inclusion in the meeting agenda.*

3. Potential Future Topics of Research

Following a brief discussion, the group agreed that Long Term Care was an important topic that could be linked with retirement and should be added to the next topics for group development.

Action Item:

- *Assia will send an email out to the Working Group requesting feedback on specific ideas for future issues that the group should undertake and asking for more ideas from group members. **Completed.***
- *The list of topics is to be compiled by Sam for the discussion in Zurich.*

4. Recruitment of New Members

Assia briefly discussed the need to recruit new members and request more active participation by current members. Rob agreed to work with Assia in drafting a request to members who have not been actively involved in the PWIG activities.

Assia suggested drafting a request to member associations for further nominations, although member associations don't have representatives on the group, per se. Chris Levac said that volunteers for specific committees/groups were generally accepted by the Chairs based on their specific expertise and knowledge. Members did express concern about the need for

active participation from around the world, including Asia and Latin America and stressed the importance to have members from under-represented regions participate and provide input on our various topics.

Action Items:

- *Assia to draft a letter (in consultation with Rob) to be addressed to those members who have not been actively involved on a regular basis.*
- *Secretariat will draft a communication to correspondents of member associations requesting names of volunteers to serve on the working group.*

5. Meeting in Zurich

Assia asked everyone about their potential participation at the Zurich meeting on April 8. Most call participants hoped to be present.

It was agreed that the meeting in Zurich should be extended by half hour. A draft agenda will be formulated and sent out shortly.

Action Item

- *Chris Levac to request that the meeting time in Zurich be extended by half hour – **Completed.***

Secretarial Note: The meeting in Zurich will now begin at 8:30AM local time rather than 9:00AM.

6. Other Business

Assia thanked everyone for their participation and input today. She added that this was her very first conference call she had ever chaired and requested feedback or pointers if anyone had any. She said that she looked very much forward to seeing everyone in Zurich and reminded all to provide the next draft of draft chapters of the Retirement report by March 15th.

The meeting was then closed at 15:50.